

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Executive Committee
Worknet Merced County
1900 Airdrome Entry,
Atwater, CA 95301
November 18, 2024, 7:30 a.m.**



www.worknetmerced.com

Members Present:

Leslie Abasta-Cummings	Tim O'Neill	Vinton Thengvall
Daron McDaniel	Jack Mobley	

Members Absent: Michael Altomare

Others Present:

Erick Serrato, Linda Gutierrez, Patricia Hinson, Stacie Tury

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1. **Call to Order/ Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order by the WDB 1st Vice Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, at 7:33 a.m. as the WDB Chair, Ms. Leslie Abasta-Cummings informed the group that she would be approximately seven minutes late. At 7:42 a.m. Ms. Abasta-Cummings arrived and took over the meeting.
 2. **Public Opportunity to Speak** – None
 3. **Approval of Minutes** – McDaniel/Mobley approved WDB Executive meeting minutes from May 13, 2024.
 4. **Chair Comments:** None
 5. **Director's Comments:** None
 6. **Grants Update:** Staff shared with members the following information.
Grants Update:
 - \$900, 000 grant pending with the Department of Justice. The grant would allow WDB in partnership with the Juvenile Hall to provide training sector specific education on the BIO Industrial Sector working with juveniles for two years. Once the youth are released, they would receive help to place them at jobs in the Ag Tech space. This is a federal grant.
 - The Department received a \$350,000 grant from the Irvine Foundation. Some of the funds will be used to support the renovations of job center relocations. The grant is for 18 months. We plan to use all the allocations.
 7. **Fiscal and Monitoring Update:** Staff shared with members the following information
 - ✓ Staff finalized FY 24/25 Budget.
 - ✓ Merced County Auditor's office completed an audit of gift-card and credit cards processes and protocols and found no findings.

- ✓ EDD will be providing annual review of the WIOA Adult, and Dislocated programs. They will be at the DWI Administration office starting today and working until Friday.

8. CA Jobs First/North Valley THRIVE:

Erick shared with members that CA Jobs First/ NVT has submitted to the State the Strategic Plan on August 30, 2024. It looked at three counties, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin County, and identified three sectors of focus and seven with the cross-cutting enabling strategies. There are thirteen regions. We succeeded with the requirements and there were no edits or rejections.

The three sectors that were selected based on the data are:

- Advance Manufacturing
- Clean Energy
- Bio Industrial work

9. Facilities/AJCC Update: Staff shared the following information

Atwater/Castle – Advancing with the renovations. Planning a soft open in December 2024 and full opening to the public in January 2025. There will be one member from Career Team to assist with customers who will be coming into the Atwater center for services. The focus of the center here at Castle is to promote connections with the jobs at Castle, as well as industry jobs.

Los Banos – We had been talking to the owner about the possibility of remodel the space there. The owner expressed a preference to sell the building to the county. An appraisal was conducted and presented to the owner. The owner rescinded his offer to sell the building. Looking at other options to relocate the office with the possibility to coincide with two smaller locations. One would be at the LB Campus, and the other would be at Probation/Breaking Barriers Center. It's still in the first phase of conversation.

Merced – Continue to look for alternative spaces to relocate the Merced AJCC office to a new location. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

- 10. Regional/Local Plan Update:** Staff are currently working on updating the Local Plan to ensure it meets community needs and expectations. To gather input on services provided, DWI will facilitate two community forums. The forums aim to invite various groups of employers and resident groups to provide feedback on their expectations with the services. Input from these forums will be integrated into the Local Plan. The community forums are scheduled to take place at the end of January 2025. Following the forums, the draft Local Plan will be presented to the WDB for review and edits in March.
- 11. AJCC Certification:** Approximately two weeks ago, DWI submitted the AJCC Certification application to the State. Subsequently, two members from MCOE conducted an objective walkthrough, utilizing the criteria established by the State. The findings from this review have been incorporated into our Continuous Improvement Plan. We are currently awaiting the State's final approval.

12. WDB Meeting and Member Engagement: Staff noted that during the previous meetings, quorum was not met. Additionally, it was observed that some WDB members missed more than two meetings over the course of the year. To better understand meeting attendance patterns and member preferences, a survey will be distributed to all WDB members. The survey will gather feedback on the most convenient day, time and location for meetings. The survey will be sent out by our WDB Chair within the next two weeks. After reviewing the responses, we will present the results and make any necessary adjustments to the 2025 WDB meeting calendar.

Regarding the AB 1234 “Ethics in Public Service” mandatory training, WDB Members are currently required to complete this training. However, to remove this requirement, the WDB bylaws must be updated to specify that WDB Members will not receive travel reimbursement unless explicitly approved by the Chair. Any amendments to the bylaws will require a 2/3 vote from the WDB members. At the next December WDB meeting, we will request volunteers to form an ad-hoc committee tasked with reviewing the bylaws and making any necessary updates.

13. Marketing Update: Mr. O'Neill shared with members that they had three candidates for the Marketing RFP. All candidates were interviewed and JPW Consulting was selected.

14. Adjournment:
Adjourned at 8:19AM