



**Workforce Development Board (WDB)  
 Merced County Administrative Building  
 2222 M Street, (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: Room 310)  
 Merced, CA 95340  
 April 29, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
 Special Meeting Minutes**



www.worknetmerced.com

**Members Present:**

Michael Altomare  
 Margarita Cabalbag  
 Eric Chu  
 Jorge De Nava Jr.  
 Steve Hobbs

Joshua Lepper  
 Amie Marchini  
 Daron McDaniel  
 Jack Mobley  
 Steve Newvine

Tim O’Neill  
 Tim Robertson  
 Stergios (Steve) Roussos  
 Peter Schuerman, Ph.D.  
 Greg Vincelet

**Members Absent:**

Leslie Abasta-Cummings  
 Daniel Caris

David Dees  
 Mark Hendrickson

Vinton Thengvall  
 Steve Tietjen, Ed.D.

**Others Present:**

Reyna Espinoza  
 Nick Loret de Mola

Mark Mimms  
 David Mirrione

Penny Weaver

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: Board Chairperson, Mr. Michael Altomare, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda: It was *M/S/C McDaniel/Newvine* to approve the agenda as published.
3. Approval of Minutes: It was *M/S/C McDaniel/Newvine* to approve the March 14, 2019 minutes as submitted.
4. Public Opportunity to Speak: None.
5. Chair Comments: Mr. Michael Altomare shared that he attended the NAWB (National Association of Workforce Boards) conference March 23-26 in Washington D.C. and provided details about the sessions he attended.
6. Director Comments .....David Mirrione

Mr. David Mirrione reported that Merced College was awarded Workforce Accelerator Funding (WAF) round 7.0 which was announced recently. He reported that while Worknet Merced County applied to refund the disability program (DEA), staff will be working with Merced College on co-enrollments. Mr. Mirrione explained that within the SJVAC Region, Merced partners with a variety of the other seven Workforce Development Boards on specially funded projects, and that Regional partners rotate taking the lead. Merced has received some planning dollars for P2E (Prison to Employment), and recently the awards were announced for the P2E implementation grant. San Joaquin County is the lead on

implementation. Funds for Merced County awarded are reduced from \$300,000 to about \$97,000. Mr. Mirrione indicated that staff are circling back to reconfigure the P2E implementation program based on the reduced award. Regional Plan Modification and Local Plan updates were submitted to the state on time, and preliminary approval has been granted by the state. Mr. Mirrione intends to bring the Plans back for final approval by the Board at its June meeting.

7. Action/Discussion

- a. Nomination Committee.....David Mirrione

It was *M/S/C Altomare/Vincelet* to approve Steve Hobbs, Steve Roussos, and Greg Vincelet to serve on the Nominations Committee.

Mr. Mirrione asked for three volunteers to serve on the Nomination Committee. The Committee will develop nominations from the private sector for the Executive Committee Officers who will serve two-year terms in the positions of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, and two members at-large. Nominations will be brought back at the June WDB meeting.

- b. 2019-20 WIOA Youth Contract.....Nick Loret de Mola

It was *M/S/C O'Neill/Hobbs* to approve the amendment for a two-year extension of the contract with MCOE for WIOA Youth Services.

***Abstention: McDaniel***

Mr. Nick Loret de Mola explained that the amendment to extend to a two-year contract features an increase in funding, and a large increase in enrollment expectation with 50 participants served this summer, 45 in construction training on the West Side, 50 new youth this summer in Merced, and 150 all year, all county.

- c. WDB Reappointment-Amie Marchini.....David Mirrione

It was *M/S/C Newvine/Cabalbag* to approve the WDB reappointment of Amie Marchini.

***Abstention: McDaniel***

- d. WDB Reappointment-Margarita Cabalbag .....David Mirrione

It was *M/S/C Marchini/Robertson* to approve the WDB reappointment of Margarita Cabalbag.

***Abstention: McDaniel***

- e. WDB Appointment-Terry Nichols .....David Mirrione.

It was *M/S/C Newvine/Vincelet* to approve the WDB appointment of Terry Nichols.

***Abstention: McDaniel***

- f. Discretionary Grant Update .....Nick Loret de Mola

Mr. Loret de Mola reported highlights of the Storm Grant program which is employing individuals to work at Public Works Department work sites throughout the county. Previously part-time employees not qualified for health benefits, Storm participants are now full-time at \$15 per hour and eligible for benefits. Mr. Mirrione reported that this change in wage and benefit eligibility is making a huge difference for the participants, and the communities. He said that the plan is to follow this model for the implementation of the Opioid (National Health Emergency) Grant program designed to outreach to the county's growing homeless population. Mr. Loret de Mola reported on the success of the DEA

(Disability Employment Accelerator) grant “Diversability” Fair, focusing on helping folks with disabilities to get employed. Related, Mr. Loret de Mola reported that Merced participated in Fresno’s WAF (Workforce Accelerator Fund) virtual delivery project which was not as viable for folks in Merced. He reported that our participants were served in our Center so no one was left behind. Mr. Loret de Mola added that he is hoping to see more funding for the VEAP (Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program) to help veterans. Conversations between Workforce and Probation are increasing with the Prison to Employment (P2E) implementation grant about strategies to use around co-case management with reentry and justice-involved participants. Mr. Loret de Mola also commented on the Department’s contact with the Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA) regarding subsidized employment, and that Reyna Espinoza, Program Manager, and her team, have done an awesome job of working with HSA to expand subsidized employment. Board Members asked questions and requested data to be reported at a future WDB meeting.

- g. WIOA Regional and Update ..... Nick Loret de Mola . 19

Mr. Loret de Mola discussed Merced’s leadership role in the Region for grants. The Regional Organizer/ Regional Training Coordinator grant ended last month. There is additional funding to continue organized regional training. Other Regional projects include the partnership with CCVEDC (California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation) to market each county, ETPL (Eligible Training Provider List) with Fresno, Workforce Executive Boot Camp; and developing our Community of Practice through web platform with Tulare County. The Regional Slingshot 2.0 grant funding will feature the start of coordination for those businesses that need multi-county solutions, Loret de Mola summarized.

8. Presentations

- a. Building Workforce Partnerships Conference 2019..... Tim Robertson

Mr. Tim Robertson, North Valley Labor Federation Director, reported on the conference he attended in San Diego featuring how to advance a framework of prosperity develop career line professions, create high road jobs, develop career level jobs that are high-skilled, and when partnerships are needed. Apprenticeships were a focus and Mr. Robertson noted that there is a big difference between apprenticeship with unions versus other entities. With unions, apprentices are paid a wage to learn a trade and often come out with a certificate, and a down payment on a house instead of student loans. Mr. Robertson’s take away from the conference is that we do apprenticeships very well. The trend is toward industrial, manufacturing type apprenticeships connecting education to business needs. Board Members asked questions about the program and discussed sector needs.

- b. Economic Development: Foster Farms..... Mark Mimms

Mr. Mark Mimms discussed the mission of the California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation to help businesses expand and to help businesses move to California. He discussed a recent example involving Foster Farms. The company was planning to move all processing to Louisiana. By working with Workforce to provide Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) and On-the-Job training, Mr. Mimms and the Merced County Community and Economic Development Department successfully put a \$6.8 million incentive package to keep Foster Farms here.

9. Reports

- a. 2018-19 WIOA Adult Services Dashboard Report.....Reyna Espinoza 21

Program Manager Reyna Espinoza reported that there is upwards of an 80 percent increase in enrollments, specifically dislocated workers, and that she is proud of the staff and the momentum they have developed to increase enrollments in the past two months.

- b. 2018-19 WIOA Youth Services Dashboard Report.....Nick Loret de Mola 29

Mr. Loret de Mola reported that we have invited MCOE to report to the WDB in June about what they are doing with the program. He recognized that the program is definitely deficit in terms of credential attainment. This is the first time the numbers have been analyzed so, when participation reports come out next year, the reports will be closer to reality.

- c. 2018-19 Worknet Business Services Dashboard Report .....Reyna Espinoza 31

Mrs. Espinoza presented the Business Newsletter and highlighted the advertisement of the job fairs and labor market information.

- d. 2018-19 Fiscal Dashboard Report .....David Mirrione 37

Mr. Mirrione discussed the program allocations and that we expect to see an increase this year. He reported that although the state unemployment rate is low, Merced's is high which will lead to increased funding.

10. Next Meeting: 2:00 pm, June 13, 2019

Location: UC Merced Downtown Center, 655 W 18th St, Rooms 105 & 106, Merced, CA 95340

11. Adjourn ..... Mike Altomare

It was *M/S/C Lepper/Mobley* to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m.