

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)**  
**2222 M Street, Merced, CA**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**October 29, 2020 2:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**



---

**Members Present:** Leslie Abasta-Cummings, (Chair), Mike Altomare, Daron McDaniel, Lynda Munoz, Steve Hobbs, Jorge de Nava, Vinton Thengvall, Joshua Lepper, Terry Nicholas, Steve Tietjen, Greg Vincelet

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** David Mirrione, Reyna Espinoza, Vilma Reynoso, Luis Sobrevilla, Erick Serrato and Stacie Tury

---

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Board Chairperson, Mrs. Leslie Abasta-Cummings, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Public Opportunity to Speak – None**
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Tietjen/Thengvall approved the agenda as published.
4. **Chair Comments: None**
5. **Director Comments:** David thanked WDB members for Ethics Training. He stated that he can't wait to attend in-person meetings.

**Consent Calendar:**

6. Approval of the Consent Calendar:
  - a) Approve the August 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - b) Review and Accept the 2020-21 Adult Program Operating Plans
  - c) Review and Accept the 2020-21 Youth Program Operating Plans
  - d) Review and Accept the 2020-21 Business Services Program Report
  - e) Review and Accept the 2020-21 Fiscal Report and Dashboard

Motion by Mike Altomare, second by Steve Tietjen to approve the Consent Calendar (Items #6a-6e); carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Presentations:**

7. Workforce Board Director Recruitment Update:

Director David Mirrione stated that they have been in the midst of a recruitment serving dual role for the past year. Great search and qualified candidates. Have selected Erick Serrato for the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment Director. He is set to start on November 23, 2020. The Agenda Item will go to the Board meeting Tuesday before the start date.

Erick is currently the Assistant Executive Director of Pacific Gateway Innovation Network, the workforce board of the greater Long Beach area, a service area covering the Los Angeles and Long Beach Port complexes. In his ten years at Pacific Gateway, Erick worked to expand the organization's service blueprint to now include numerous cross-disciplinary partnerships, a non-profit, and a \$17M budget. In this role, Erick was part of the City's Economic Development Department leadership team, working on a host of opportunities at the nexus of workforce and economic development. Apart from his work with City of Long Beach, Erick has consulted extensively, currently completing projects with the City of Detroit Workforce Board and West Valley Community College, where is helping those organizations reimagine career development services and business engagement. He has also presented widely at California Workforce Association and National Association of Workforce Boards as a subject matter expert in workforce and design thinking. Prior to entering workforce development, Erick worked in fund and organizational development in numerous education, arts, and culture, and legal aid non-profits. David added that he is extremely excited about his work.

Erick mentioned that he is very excited about his opportunity and leadership that David have provided. He has appreciated the long talks over the phone. He is excited to meet everyone.

Leslie is thankful for all the work that David has done.

8. Central Valley Opportunity Center: Response to COVID-19:

Jorge did a presentation in regards to protecting farm workers during this time of COVID. He stated that teams of five staff members were assigned to do outreach to all Merced County farmworkers, the program was done four days a week, Monday-Thursday. The last large event was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> and they provided free mobile testing for COVID.

Leslie stated 'Great Work' and shared that her team also assisted CVOC in this event.

9. Program Services Update:

Outreach efforts

Are down across all career centers. Definitely creating a challenge for us that we are trying to tackle. We are doing virtual office hours- Merced College President, Chris Vitelli reached out and asked if they can do virtual presentations.

CTE Programs-outline referral form. Working with MCC on Welding program. Provided flyers to libraries on our services. David explained-outlined recruiting events.

Contact Tracing Grant:

Foundation partnership is going to collaborate with us.

OPIOID Grant:

Released those dollars down so we can do a new round of hires. Working with our Behavioral Health Resource Services Department.

Food Bank WEX Program:

We connected and the need was from months before.

Rethinking our training program:

An ability to open for walk-ins, since we are trying to capture those participants.

LinkedIn Learning Program:

Training and is added to their LinkedIn profile. We can let them use it.

COVID Supportive Services Grant:

- Receiving additional 50,000 in funding to provide rent, mortgage, PG&E, utilities, home and auto insurance, along with unpaid phone bills.

Ready2Open Grant:

Finalizing 275 applications- 200 checks were processed. We will not reach the 3 million. Community and Veterans Grant- staff has been working diligently to assist with applications. Please spread the work about the program.

New funding secured 3.74 – 3.894

Funding has provided the opportunity to establish new relationships. Once we wrap it up we will have a report out.

Erick mentioned that yes enrollments are down using the COVID SS dollars we could take advantage of adding to enrollments.

David said it was a little of both utilizing the participants we had already that we could easily place and the recruiting of new participants.

Gateway Adult Education Network Presentation:

Ms. Vilma Reynoso gave a presentation on Title II partner-Regional Coordinator.

K-12-Review presentation

AB-86 Adult ED Funding

Discussed slides and barriers.

AB 104-Structure and funding

Ms. Reynoso mentioned closing the gaps in the training and partnerships. She went over website that they developed.

Leslie thanked Vilma for her presentation.

**12. Feedback on Future Agenda Items:** None

**13. Next Meeting Date and Time** – The next meeting is Thursday, December 17, 2020.

**14. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.