

Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Merced County DWI

1900 Airdrome Entry

Atwater, CA 95301

June 8, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes



www.worknetmerced.com

Members Present:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Leslie Abasta-Cummings | Jorge De Nava | Mark Hendrickson | Chudy Nnebe |
| Joshua Lepper | Tim O'Neil | Tim Robertson | Vinton Thengvall |
| Steve Tietjen | Greg Vincelet | Jack Mobley | |
| | Terry Nichols | Satvir Arias | |

Members Absent:

| | | | |
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| Michael Altomare | Lynda Munoz | Amie Marchini | Daron McDaniel |
| Steve Hobbs | Chris Vitelli | | |

Others Present:

Erick Serrato, Linda Gutierrez, Yang Her, Valente Huitron, Stephanie Vue, Ruben Castaneda, Sheila Ming, Jessica Moran, Nancy Vierra, Patricia Hinson

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- 1. Call to Order/ Roll Call:** Board Chairperson, Mrs. Leslie Abasta-Cummings, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.
 - 2. Public Opportunity to Speak:** Ms. Sheila Ming shared with members that she came to the Merced Worknet office seeking training assistance. Once she attended the orientation and met all the enrolment requirements, she was placed in the truck drivers training. She added that Worknet staff kept in touch with her during her truck driving training to see if she needed anything else. Once she finished her truck driver training and received her license, she was able to get a good job and travel all over the United States. She will forever be thankful to Worknet and its staff for all their help and support.
 - 3. Approval of Agenda:** *Mobley/Hendrickson* approved the meeting agenda as published.
 - 4. Approval of Minutes:** *Tietjen/Mobley* approved the meeting agenda as published.
Abstain: Chudy Nnebe.
 - 5. Chair Comments:** Mrs. Leslie Abasta-Cummings thanked everybody for being present at the meeting. She stated that Livingston Community Health continues to provide vaccinations and COVID tests to the community. She foresees giving the vaccinations throughout the whole year. She looks forward to continuing the work with everybody on this new trend.

- 6. Director's Comments:** Erick thanked everybody for making time to attend the in-person meeting. He thanked Chudy Nnebe for being present and spending three hours driving from San Francisco to Merced for the meeting and for representing EDD. He also thanked all members present at the meeting. He thanked them for their flexibility because this meeting was originally scheduled for the end of June. We had to quickly reschedule it almost three weeks earlier than expected, so that we can meet some deadlines with the Board's calendar. He added that he has been visiting a wide array of businesses over the last couple of months. It has been a tremendous experience. He spoke with one of the business owners, Mr. Don Ruben, who is present and comes from Dos Palos. He will give his business testimonial and share how Worknet assisted him in the last year. Erick thanked the WDB staff for assisting with the meeting materials.

In terms of the Local Labor Market information, it again is unprecedented and does not follow any rules in particular. What we know nationally is about 2/3s of the jobs that were lost have already come back. This is certainly true in parts of the state of California, but certainly not here in Merced County. Erick looked at the unemployment rates and labor participation rates for the Bay area. As an example, both Alameda County and the San Jose region have regained about 60% of the jobs that they had lost, and we are at 41%. Later he will share more information and would like to have feedback from board members.

One of the WDB staff projects has been working with the Merced County Probation team to create a worker pipeline with Save Mart. Save Mart has agreed to bring on as many as twenty (20) individuals on Probation and offer them a job to work at their night shift. Staff continues to work with Save Mart to see which individuals will be eligible to work there. The individuals who will be eligible to work at Save Mart will allow them to have a good union job and salary. This would not be happening if it were not for Save Mart's generosity and their cooperation with this great opportunity.

WDB members have shared their input on the lack of quality and accessible childcare in the area. Erick shared with members that he will meet with the Irvine Foundation, who are interested in looking at a pilot program that would help us do something special. He added that in some of his visits to food process packing warehouses, he continues to ask the employers the role of automation. He noted that they all look at the rows of employees that are in their 40s and 50s and say, "yes, these are great workers, but there is this amazing machine that will do this work, and it will do it with half as many people. We're going to get one of those machines in a couple of years." The predictions with this situation are that many of these people will be out of work, and at the same time, we have this lack of affordable childcare. The conversation with Irvine Foundation is a way that we may retrain workers to actually become small business owners and have their own childcare operations.

- 7. WDB Bylaws Revisions:** WDB Staff presented recommendations for revisions to Workforce Board Bylaws. Requested the approval of changes to the WDB Bylaws.

Following are the proposed revisions.

Section A: Change from "Workforce Development Board of Merced County" to Merced County Workforce Development Board" to align with workforce board naming norms and the organization's

public identity.

Section C: Address updated to 1900 Airdrome Entry, Atwater, CA 95301

Section E: 1j: Removal of “Members of the Youth Council who are not members of the Board as described above shall be non-voting members of the Board.” This edit prevents members of the youth committee from becoming members of the Workforce Development Board, as this would grow the size of the Board and may impact quorum and other decision-making processes.

Section G. 2a (and throughout): Change “Youth Council” to “Youth Committee” to differentiate from the Youth Council under WIA (previous iteration of the WDB) and its prescribed membership and function.

Section G. 2a: Removal of “Immediate Past Chairperson” from list of required members, as the Immediate Past Chair may no longer be a member of the Board and cannot serve on the Executive Committee; and to align with 501 c-3 leadership.

Section G. 2a: removal of immediate past chairperson” from list of required members, as the Immediate past chair may no longer

Section G. 3d: Change “Workforce Investment Board to “Workforce Development Board.”

Section G. Addition of:

3. f: The Youth Committee may also include a WIOA-eligible Youth (ages 16-24), a representative of a youth-serving community-based or government organization (ex: Youth Probation), and a past member of the Workforce Development Board, approved by the Board.

Section H: Change from a minimum of six meetings per year to a minimum of four per year

Section J: Change from “Robert’s Rules of Order” to Rosenberg’s Rules of Order.

Motion by Steve Tietjen, second by Tim O’Neil to approve the recommendations for revisions to Workforce Board Bylaws; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. WIOA Policies: DWI staff is requesting the review and approval of the following WIOA Policies: On-the-Job Training, Career Services, and Follow-Up Services.

Motion by Tim O’Neil, second by Jorge de Nava to approve the WIOA Policies as presented; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9. PY2021-2022 WDB/Department of Workforce Investment (DWI) Budget: Staff is requesting review and approval of PY2021-2022 Proposed Budget and discussion of reductions in WIOA “formula” funding allocations.

The following items are of note:

1. WIOA Title 1 Funding: The State delivered allocations for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth after this budget was developed submitted. These “formula” fund allocations represent a 13% reduction from the previous year:
 - a) Adult funding decreased by 9.78% from \$2,031,881 to \$1,669,742
 - b) Dislocated Worker funding increased by 2.01% from \$1,248,252 to \$1,299,352
 - c) Youth Funding decreased by 10.07% from \$2, 165,502.00 to \$1,769,162

DWI has responded by reducing Adult and Dislocated Worker subcontracts by approximately 10% and made other adjustments that will be reflected in the final budget.

2. Rapid Response and Layoff Aversion: Allocations from Program Year 2021-2022 have not been revealed. This budget is estimating no increase or decrease in those funding streams from 2020-2021

Motion by Jack Mobley, second by Joshua Lepper to review and approval of Preliminary Program Year 2021-2022 Proposed Budget for the Department of Workforce Investment and discussion of reductions in WIOA formula; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Abstain: Steve Tietjen

10. Workforce Development Board Membership: Review and approval of WDB application for Jeff Segars, Foster Farms, to the full Workforce Development Board and forward to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

Motion by Mark Hendrickson, second by Greg Vincelet to approve the nomination of Jeff Segars (Foster Farms) to the Workforce Development Board and subsequent consideration by the Merced County Board of Supervisors; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

11. Business Testimonial: Don Ruben Castaneda came from Dos Palos to share with WDB members about how the Ready2Open Small Business Assistance Program helped his business ‘Ojo de Agua’ stay afloat during the COVID crises.

Nancy Vierra shared with WDB members about how the Ready2Open Small Business Assistance Program helped her business ‘Nancy’s Food Truck’ stay operational during the COVID crisis.

12. Board Resolution regarding Employment Policy Impacts on Labor Partnership Rate: The Executive Committee discussed the aforementioned, citing examples from their business and others in their industries, and a desire to articulate the impacts of these forces on the local market. The Executive Committee encouraged the drafting of a resolution to the Merced County Board of Supervisors in support of their ongoing efforts to aid the County’s economic recovery. Staff requested the review and approval of Resolution from the Workforce Development Board to the Merced County Board of Supervisors highlighting local worker shortage. After WDB members reviewed the draft Resolution, it was decided upon the group that they would like for the resolution to be returned to the WDB Executive meeting to be re-written and add more data and other factors such as partnering with schools.

Motion by Tim O’Neil, second by Steve Tietjen to take back to the WDB Executive Committee and re-

write it adding more data and factors; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

13. Good Movement/Logistics Recruitment Activities: Moved to the next WDB meeting.

14. Business Engagement Performance Outcomes: Moved to the next WDB meeting.

15. WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Funding for PY2021-2022:

Approval of obligation of \$1,904,674 of WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding for the 2021-2022 Program Year.

Motion by Joshua Lepper, second by Vinton Thengvall to approve obligation of \$1,904,674 of WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding for the 2021-2022 Program Year; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

16. WIOA Youth Program Funding for PY2021-2022:

Approval of obligation of \$1,900,000 of WIOA Youth funding for the 2021-2022 Program Year.

Motion by Mark Hendrickson, second by Jack Mobley to approve the obligations of \$1,900,000 of WIOA Youth funding for the 2021-2022 Program Year; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Abstain: Steve Tietjen

17. WIOA Youth Program Award, PY2021-2025:

Review of Request for Proposal results and provisional approval of the WIOA Out-of-School Youth Services Provider.

Motion by Vinton Thengvall, second by Jorge De Nava to approve Review of Request for Proposal results and provisional approval of the WIOA Out-of-School Youth Services Provider; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Recuse: Steve Tietjen

Abstain: Tim O'Neil

18. Programs for Unhoused Residents in Merced County: Erick thanked Board member Jack Mobley for his recent contributions to the development of these programs. The work will continue to broaden, and staff will pursue additional special funding to support the work.

Following are some of the programs WDB staff have been working with local partners to support the needs of unhoused jobseekers.

- a) Leadership in the Homeless Court.
- b) Ongoing program development with the Rescue Mission to develop employer-led programming to help create connections among business owners and Navigation Center residents.
- c) Workforce services, focused on basic skills development and high school diploma/GED, for unhoused residents through the WDB's AB1111 grant.

19. Adult, Dislocated, and Youth Programmatic Performance: Moved to next WDB meeting.

20. Worknet Non-Profit Bylaw Revisions: Moved to next WDB Meeting.

21. Workforce Board Reports: None

22. Future Agendas & Meetings: None

23. Adjournment:

Mrs. Leslie Abasta-Cummings adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.