

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Merced County DWI
Zoom Meeting
September 22, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**



www.worknetmerced.com

Members Present:

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| Jorge De Nava | Satvir Arias | Jack Mobley | Greg Vincelet |
| Daron McDaniel | Mark Hendrickson | Chudy Nnebe | Jeff Segars |
| Tim O'Neil | Tim Robertson | Joshua Lepper | Vinton Thengvall |
| Steve Hobbs | Amie Marchini | Steve Tietjen | Chris Vitelli |

Members Absent:

Michael Altomare Terry Nichols
Leslie Abasta-Cummings

Others Present:

Erick Serrato, Reyna Espinoza, Linda Gutierrez, Yang Her, Mario Pena, Martha Torres, Valente Huitron, Jerry Tiu, Jason Sanchez, Holly Newlon, Daphne Post, Becky Lincoln, Jennifer Brooks, Tina Robertson, Michelle Skoor, Robert Hubbard, Stephanie Vue, Adilene Gomez, Patricia Hinson

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- 1. Call to Order/ Roll Call:** Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.
 - 2. Public Opportunity to Speak:** None
 - 3. Customer Impact Comment:** Mr. Jerry Tiu, President of Provident Primary Care –He shared with members his gratitude towards Merced County Workforce Board for the services provided to him since 2015. He received assistance from staff for his business recruitment needs through the ESE program. He also received funds through the Ready2Open Small Business Program and thanked Merced County Board of Supervisors for helping his business during the pandemic.

Mr. Jason Sanchez- Participant in WIOA Adult/AB1111 program. Mr. Sanchez stated that he went to the Merced Worknet through the New Direction office to seek assistance. He shared that at one point, he was homeless and had lost custody of his children. He attended the Worknet orientation and was approved for an OJT for HVAC. He thanked the staff for their job assistance and for helping him with housing for an apartment. He was also able to get his children back. He is very grateful to Merced County Workforce Investment/Worknet for the services.
 - 4. Approval of Agenda:** *Hendrickson/ Mobley* approved the meeting agenda as published.
 - 5. Approval of Minutes:** *Lepper/Tietjen* approved the meeting minutes as published.

6. **Vice Chair Comments:** Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall thanked everybody for being present at the zoom meeting. He noted that he would be conducting the WDB meeting for Leslie since she is out.
7. **Director's Comments:** Erick thanked all members and guests for being present at the zoom meeting. He shared information about employment dates, vaccination efforts, LiUNA Program and Graduation, upcoming projects, and grant announcements.

Daphne Post –Merced County Office of Education thanked the Board members and staff for everything they did. She plans to retire in a couple of weeks.

Erick shared with members that the additional UI Benefits will come to an end for the job seekers by the end of September. He added that the AJCCs centers had seen an uptake of about 30% enrollments. This is good news for our services.

Chudy stated that the Merced EDD office has officially opened on Monday, September 20, 2021. The Modesto office will follow.

Tim Robertson thanked the Workforce's Team, Livingston Community Health, and volunteers for their outstanding work in coordinating the vaccination clinic for the Le Grand community. The goal is to offer more of these vaccinations clinics throughout the County.

MCOE extended an invitation to participate in the Ready-to-Return campaign for students and the power of vaccination.

Chris Vitelli, Merced College, shared with members that it has been a success working together in partnership with El Capitan in regards to the Hospitality Career Academy and helping students get hired to work there.

LiUNA- Erick shared with members that on September 2, 2021, the LiUNA graduation ceremony took place at Central Valley Opportunity Center CVOC. He thanked Jorge de Nava for hosting the graduation ceremony at his location. Eleven students graduated and received their certificates. LiUNA was a successful training program thanks to the collaboration between CVOC, Laborers Union, and the WDB. The graduates and their families had great comments about the event.

Jorge de Nava from CVOC added that it was a great opportunity to work with the Laborers Union and WDB. Great speeches and he is glad it all worked out as planned.

Josh Lepper, Laborer Union, noted that he is looking forward to more of these trainings.

Erick mentioned that he met with Tim O'Neil and discussed the opportunity to offer students access to getting a low-interest loan while attending training. He is exploring ways that might help with this goal. One way is to collaborate with the banks.

The Irvine Foundation- Erick shared with members that this is a home-based childcare foundation and that it was awarded a grant for planning and developing phases of childcare projects. We will

share more information later. He introduced Ms. Jennifer Brooks, who will be the lead in this project.

Ms. Jennifer Brooks added that she is excited and looks forward to working with the WDB and this project.

- 8. MCWDB Youth Committee:** The Youth Committee is purposed to explore workforce issues and possibilities affecting Merced County Youth. The Committee develops critical partnerships with the business community and around career-based work experiences and career technical education pathways and makes recommendations to the Workforce Development Board. It also serves as the performance review body to assess the efficacy and impact of youth programs and communicate this to the WDB. Staff has developed a recommended Purpose Statement for the Committee. Members of the Board were invited to be part of the Youth Committee. At the December 8 WDB meeting, members of the Board will be appointed to be part of the Youth Committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Youth Committee, please contact the Chair or Director.

Steve Tietjen requested a motion to approve the Draft Purpose Statement and the formation of the Youth Committee. Second by Amie Marchini and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 9. Budget Presentation:** DWI staff presented to members the FY 21/22 Organization Budget.

- New structure to the Board budget to better communicate cost centers.
- Carry-over funds enabled Board to avoid cuts, though this came with risk.
- New category provided Board with more opportunities for special projects.
- Large shifts in year-to-year expenses due to special programs.
- Without new grants, next fiscal year could see cuts in Youth funding.

- 10. WIOA Policies:** Staff is requesting review and approval of the following four WIOA Policies: WIOA Adult Program Priority of Services; Referring Suspected Fraudulent Activities and Abuse; Matched and Leverage Resources and Priority of Services to Veterans and Eligible Spouses.

Motion by Chris Vitelli, second by Mark Hendrickson to review and approval of four WIOA Policies: WIOA Adult Program Priority of Services; Referring Suspected Fraudulent Activities and Abuse; Matched and Leverage Resources, and Priority of Services to Veterans and Eligible Spouses; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 11. Priority Sectors:** Staff shared that MCWDB's Priority Sectors were identified in 2017, mirroring the Region. Priority Sectors provide direction; they do not have to limit investments. The Board may consider revisions to the list to meet new priorities, such as Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Information Technology. The Board will explore Sector Strategy models for 2022.

- 12. Board Membership:** Staff shared with members that Lynda Munoz resigned from the Board effective immediately. Ms. Munoz has accepted another job in another county.

Motion by Chudy Nnebe, second by Steve Hobbs to approve the resignation of Lynda Munoz

effective immediately; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Abstain: Daron McDaniel

The WDB currently has six vacancies. Elections of Officers will be held at the December 8, 2021 WDB meeting. The positions that are up for election are Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair. The notice needs to be sent to the Board by November 30, 2021.

13. Business Services: Staff gave an update to members of the business engagement activities. The following activities are priority projects through the end of the calendar year:

- Trucking and Logistics Fest – September 29, 2021
- Continue support of business applications for COVID-19 State grants, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center
- Corporate ‘Second Chance’ Probation pipeline project, October 2021
- Human Resources Thank You Breakfast – November 18, 2021
- Labor Market Information Projects

Members of the Board thanked Erick and the staff for all the hard work they were doing to meet the community’s needs.

14. Trucking and Logistics Fest: Staff shared with members that the Trucking and Logistics Fest will take place on September 29, 2021. Currently, there are 96 pre-registrations for the event, and so far, 30 employer partners have confirmed, four training providers, and seven community resources. Following are some of the opportunities available for attendees:

- Rapid enrollment and training scholarships approval, on-site
- A training fair, with an open marketplace where trainees can make informed decisions on their school choice
- An audience-specific location and atmosphere that attracts a variety of workers in that industry
- On-site application station to support online application activity, and DMV print-outs
- Industry and association co-sponsors that lend weight to the event

15. PY20/21 Program Outcomes: Staff shared with members that the Adult Services have exceeded the goal in enrollments by 93. Including going beyond their goal in training in the WDB priority industry sector by 67.

For Dislocated Worker Services, the goal in enrollments was also exceeded by 24 and beyond the goal in training in WDB priority industry sectors by 53.

Staff stated that there was a struggle with placements in On-the-Job training for the Adult and Dislocated Worker services. They are working closely with Equus to remediate that in the upcoming year.

For the Youth performance for PY 20/21, MCOE EMPOWER exceeded their measurable skills gain goal by 62, and beyond their goal by 3 in placed in post-secondary education/advanced training. In addition, they went beyond their goal in Employment-training related by 6.

The Youth services provider struggled with placements in On-the-Job training and, notably their Westside measures. In this upcoming year, staff will continue to work closely with Youth provider to discuss strategies and resources to alleviate those concerns.

16. PY21/22 Program Framework: Staff shared with members that there will be new Performance-Based outcomes (PBOs) for next year. New elements in service contracts and a new performance dashboard to track progress across domains.

17. AJCC Service Locations: Erick shared with members that staff continues to explore improvements and changes to Merced and Los Banos AJCCs. One of the topics is to add the addition of a small satellite office at Castle, positioned in partnership with Community and Economic Development. Also, the development of Portals in Libraries and other sites to improve access is to make access no more than a 15-minute drive for 99% of the County residents.

Tim Robertson gave kudos to Erick for all the exciting work he is doing.

18. 2022- WDB Meeting Calendar: The following dates and times were identified for the 2022 calendar year.

Full Board Meeting: Held quarterly, fourth Wednesday of the month (from 2:00pm to 3:30pm)
Locations: In-person. Locations hosted at Industry/Employer/Training sites throughout the County.
Dates: March 23; June 22; September 28; December 28.

Executive Committee Board Meeting: Held on odd-numbered months, second Thursday (from 4:00pm to 5:00 pm) Location: In-person. Merced County Workforce Development Board Admin. Offices (Castle)
Dates: January 13; March 10; May 12; July 14; September 8; November 10.

The Board decided to approve the 2022 WDB meeting calendar year at the December 8, 2021 meeting.

19. Worknet Non-Profit Update: Erick stated that he plans to meet with the Auditors, approval of the MOU with County. The next steps would be the submission of form 1023, Articles of Incorporation.

20. Future Agenda & Meeting: Invitations for Future Items for December 8, 2021 meeting.

- Priority Sector Discussion
- Restore Merced – Business Pledge
- Officer Elections/Board Membership

Tim Robertson requested more Labor Market information to be provided at the next WDB meeting regarding further details on wages, what jobs are leading to employment, and the most popular occupation side with rapid housing.

21. Adjournment:

The Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.