

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Merced County DWI
Sam Pipes Conference Room - (City Hall)
678 W 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
June 22, 2022, 2:00 p.m.**



www.worknetmerced.com

Members Present:

Greg Vincelet	Chudy Nnebe	Chris Winek
Tim O'Neill	Michelle Skoor	Joe R. Perez
Daron McDaniel	David Ness	Jack Mobley
Vinton Thengvall	Steve Hobbs	Chris Vitelli

Members Absent:

Amie Marchini	Leslie Abasta-Cummings	Jorge De Nava	Joshua Lepper
Michael Altomare	Steve Tietjen	Mark Hendrickson	
Tim Robertson	Satvir Arias	Jeff Segars	

Others Present:

Erick Serrato, Reyna Espinoza, Valente Huitron, Mario Pena, Martha Torres, Frank Quintero, Maira Mendoza Taylor Gates, Becky Lincoln, Norma Cardona, Stephanie Vue, Adilene Gomez, See Lee, Patricia Hinson, Brandi Avalos

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- 1. Call to Order/ Roll Call:** The First Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. He thanked the City of Merced for hosting the meeting.
 - 2. Host Welcome:** Frank Quintero, Deputy City Manager, City of Merced, welcomed the WDB Members and attendees to Merced Civic Center. He noted that he has worked for many years with Merced County Department of Workforce Investment and recently has established an outstanding partnership with Erick. He added that WDB is an important component to the city's economic development efforts. His new role as Deputy City Manager has changed his current job duties, and he's working less with economic development assignments. He introduced two of his colleagues, Economic Development Manager Maria Mendoza and Taylor Gates, Economic Development Associate. He looks forward to working with the Workforce Development Board.
 - 3. Public Opportunity to Speak:** See Lee, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club for Merced County. She thanked all members of the WDB for their support of the Boys and Girls Club. She added that one of the projects that the Boys and Girls Club is currently doing in Partnership with Merced County Workforce Investment/ Worknet is working with the Youth Work Readiness Program. This summer, they were able to extend services to other locations, Santa Nella and Gustine High School District, and after July 6, they will be in Los Banos as well. They were able to serve 400 kids this summer, including about 30 kids that are going through the Work Readiness Program. She thanked the Board for their partnership and noted that without the support of Workforce Investment, they would not be able to run their program in the Westside.

Erick stated that the committee has been made \$56,000 to support the Gustine location and looking at other funding sources to help pay for other programs in Gustine for students.

Norma Cardona, VP of Bitwise Industries, Merced. Following the meeting, she invited the board members for a tour of Bitwise in Merced.

4. Customer Impact Comments: Customer Testimonial:

Hannah C- Adult Program: Ms. Hannah shared with members she is currently employed with Restore Merced. She thanked Equus staff for assisting with supportive services, which helped her with professional attire for her new office position at Restore Merced. In addition, the staff made available all the LinkedIn learning courses that will expand her job readiness skills. She is grateful to the WDB and Equus staff for all their help and support.

5. Approval of Minutes (March 23, 2022): *Vitelli/McDaniel* approved the meeting minutes as published.

6. Open Announcements: None

7. Vice-Chair Comments: The First Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, thanked all members for attending the meeting. He added that he has been excited to work for the WDB for the past six years. He noted that this is a very interesting work environment that he hasn't experienced before, like post-Covid, low unemployment, and inflation. These issues are bringing big challenges to all, especially the low unemployment. He was expecting to have high unemployment and people going back to work. Instead, it's low unemployment, and businesses are still looking for employees. He is excited to be part of the board because he feels we can have these challenges related to education, business, and labor, and we can make a difference in facing the challenges. It's an exciting time to be part of the Board, and he thanked the board for the opportunity.

8. Director's Comments: Erick thanked everybody for being present at the meeting. He shared a synopsis of the Meeting Agenda with members and commented on non-Agenda items, legislative updates, and other areas of interest.

9. Strategic Planning Process: Staff shared with members the opportunity to convene for a retreat to focus on short-and-long-term goals. The Merced County WDB, in its last five years, has seen significant growth and change, including the transition to subcontracted services, expansion in programs, exploration of intersecting workforce opportunities, and change in leadership. In addition, the economic environment has also seen serious changes, including COVID-19 and population growth.

A meeting poll will be sent to identify a full day in August through October where the Board members can meet to discuss emergent opportunities, new ways to engage Board membership in their work, and the role of the non-profit. The Board Chair and Board Director will facilitate the WDB retreat.

10. FY 2022-2023 Workforce Development Board Budget (Preliminary): Review and approval of the Workforce Board Budget, as submitted by the Department of Workforce Investment for approval to the Merced County Board of Supervisors on June 21, 2022

Request for a motion to approve the Workforce Development Board Preliminary Budget submitted by the Department of Workforce Investment for approval to the Merced County Board of Supervisors on June 21, 2022.

Motion by Steve Hobbs, second by Chris Winek to approve the Workforce Development Board Preliminary budget submitted by the Department of Workforce Investment for approval to the Merced County Board of Supervisors on June 21, 2022; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Abstain: Daron McDaniel

- 11. WDB Bylaw Change:** The following change to Bylaws to stagger Board member terms in compliance with WIOA rules.

Section E # 2 Term: Change from “All members may be appointed and/or reappointed to a four (4) year term” to “Each member shall serve for a term of four (4) years. However, the terms of thirteen (13) of the initial members of the board shall instead be two (2) years, to be determined by lot. Thereafter the terms of the membership shall be staggered four-year terms. There are no term limits. Members may serve as many terms as the Board of Supervisors appoints them.”

Due to a lack of the 2/3-member vote for the motion to pass, the motion was postponed to the next WDB Meeting.

- 12. Youth Committee Report:** Youth Staff shared with members that the Merced County Youth Committee held its second meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at the Merced AJCC. Some discussion items for the meeting were; Fiscal update, a review of Program Year 2021-2022 Performance Outcomes for youth Programs, Youth Work Experience Projects, and a Special presentation on the Introduction of Youth Expanded Subsidized Employment Program (YES).

- 13. Merced County Workforce Development Council:** Erick shared with members the non-profit has been named “Merced County Workforce Development Council” to demonstrate its alignment with the Merced County Workforce Development Board. He added that the Trustees of this non-profit are the members of the Board’s Executive Committee.

The first meeting of the Council was held on May 12, 2022, and served to present and review foundational documents. Having informed the full Board through this report and barring any concern or objective, documents will be submitted to the State of California by June 30, 2022.

- 14. Business Services:** Staff shared with members an update on Business activities currently underway:

Jobs that Move Event: The Jobs that Move Event is scheduled on June 28, 2022. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will target various sectors: Transportation, Warehouse, Logistics, Agriculture, Construction, and Manufacturing. In addition, the event will have a job fair, a training expo (scholarships available), community partners with resources, a truck show, a raffle, food, and prizes.

Micro-Business Grant: The Merced County Department of Workforce Investment/Workforce Board launched the Merced County Microbusinesses COVID-19 Relief Grant Program on Monday, May 9, via MCBizGrants.com. So far, there have been 50 applicants.

Workforce Fact Sheet: The draft information was shared with various partners, cities, and other major stakeholders to validate the data for accuracy. The Merced County Workforce Fact sheet is pending review by its Workforce Board for additional feedback before finalizing the product before it is made public. stakeholders to validate the data for accuracy.

Incumbent Worker Investments: The Merced County Department of Workforce (DWI) team initiated its first Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) agreement with Merced County Central Valley Railroad, LLC (Patriot Rail) in Atwater. The WDB may reserve and use up to 20 percent of its combined WIOA, Adult, and DW formulate allocation for ITW activities.

Healthcare Survey and Industry Work: The Board has decided that Healthcare will become the next industry focus; it will be launched next week with an employer survey to identify key barriers and opportunities. Once the survey has been completed, staff will review and provide feedback to identify the need for industry-specific recruitment events, training programs, and other investments and launch the formation of a healthcare industry working group of the Board.

15. Adult, Dislocated Worker & Youth Performance Reports: Staff provided an update on the quarterly review of WIOA Programmatic Performance, Performance-Based Outcomes, and other key indicators for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs.

16. Approval of Subcontracts of PY2022-2023 WIOA Adult, DW, and Youth Service Providers: Review and approve the Contracts PY 2022-2023 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth totaling \$2,601,215.00. Contracts must be approved prior to the beginning of the PY 2022-2023, which begins July 1, 2022.

Request a motion to approve the Subcontracts for PY 2022-2023 for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth.

Motion by Chris Vitelli, second by Michelle Skoor to approve the Subcontracts for PY 2022-2023 for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth; carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Abstain: Daron McDaniel

Opposed: Time O'Neill

17. Post-Program Evaluation: Staff provided a review of three recently-completed programs. Workforce Accelerator 8.0 Homeless Court; AB1111; Opioid Crisis NDWG. Staff noted that all programs ended on March 31, 2022.

18. External Monitoring of PY 2020-2021 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth: The agenda item was postponed to the next WDB meeting.

19. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF): Erick shared a copy of the survey to Workforce Board members to identify priority economic development projects in Merced County and strategies to assist workers and job seekers. He asked members to identify three top priorities of their choice and add one of their ideas.

20. Future Agenda & Meetings: The next WDB meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2022. The Location is TBD.

21. Adjournment: The First Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.