

Employment Connection Council (ECC) Minutes November 17, 2021

In Attendance

Designees: Robert Kleyn (Chair), Carla Calhoun, Victoria Guzman, Jennie Bautista, John Werner, Lori Morton, Larriann Torrez, Michelle Miller-Galaz, Nick Brown, Roxanna Cruz, Tammy Olson, **WIB Staff:** Adam Peck, David McMunn, Edith Hernandez (facilitator), Elizabeth Dodd (scribe), Laurel Hernandez, Nicola Wissler, Christina Hopper
Partner Staff & Other: Veronica Lopez, Erika Betancourt, Maria Guerrero, Johnathon Thompson, Mari Valentin, Craig Plath, LeaAnn Price, Chelsea Cushing

1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 10:00 am

2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

3) **CONSENT ITEMS –**

a) Approve November 17, 2021, Employment Connection Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by John Werner, second by Roxana Cruz; carried by a unanimous vote.

4) **ONE-STOP OPERATOR (OSO) ITEMS**

Edith Hernandez

a) Partner Referrals Quarterly Summary

A detail of the 320 referrals received for the 12 partners during the first quarter of program year 21/22 was provided through a shared screen.

b) Employment Connection System – Universal Drive Guidance

An email was sent to all ECC members with an explanation on how to use this universal drive set up in Google. This drive is meant to better assist us with our information and resources. Please share it with all applicable staff.

c) Employment Connection System Professional Development

d) Employment Connection Partner Satisfaction Survey

We will be developing & re-developing partner workgroups for both professional development & partner satisfaction surveys. We are needing some names and are working towards an annual training calendar and updating our partner satisfaction survey.

e) 2021-22 Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA) Timeline Update

The 21-22 IFA needs approval from WIB's Full Board, there was difficulty with the October and November Meetings, once it is approved the IFA will be mailed out for signatures.

5) **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

a) WIB Executive Director Report

Adam Peck

Remote meetings now must have a monthly resolution from the WIB's Full Board. Federal legislation is still going on with the 1.75 trillion-dollar spending bill that holds a substantial amount of money for Workforce Development Programs. The State offered one billion dollars in last years' budget for education and workforce development; it continues to look for ways of rolling it out to the communities. We do have a fear that the state is looking at distributing these funds regionally which can leave Tulare and Kings County without a portion of those funds. We have let the State know that combined Tulare and Kings Counties make up a

good portion of the population in the Central Valley, have different demographics, and need some of this funding for our communities.

b) America's Job Center of California (AJCC) Certification for the Employment Connection Comprehensive and Affiliate Centers in Tulare County Edith Hernandez

We are getting started to certify our comprehensive and affiliate centers. The State mandates this every three (3) years, to maintain a high-quality AJCC. The state has set a process and is done through independent evaluations. Because the WIB is the One-stop-operator of the EC the State must certify. We have contracted with a neutral third party (David Schinder), to handle the self-assessment certification. Mr. Schinder began the process through a Zoom Meeting/discussion with our partners' workgroup, with the focus being, AJCC Certification Indicators. Our Partner systems services are on target with our current operations and have reviewed a plan to improve barriers noted in our current efforts. The state will reply to our Certification Process on December 17, 2021, we will be meeting to update our improvement plan by December 31, 2021.

c) Business Services Updates Nicola Wissler

- Rapid Response – we had one (1) person attend our online Rapid Response webinars for October & November. Our team has been doing out-reach in the City of Dinuba, we have not engaged with them. PrintXcell, a Visalia business sent out digital Rapid Response information to 15 workers affected by the closure.
- Bi-weekly Recruitment Newsletter -
- 2021 Tulare County Job Fair – Update on the Tulare County Job Fair, thank you to all who assisted us with this Job Fair, in all we had two sessions due to covid restrictions, there were a total of 106 Employers and 433 attendees, 890 interviews conducted, and 106 Job-Seekers hired. Overall, with the constrictions of Covid, this Job Fair was a success.
- Healthcare Recruitment Event – Emails are sent out on Monday mornings. They are full of information regarding upcoming virtual Job Connect Events and any customized recruitments. If you want to be added to the email list or have questions, Monica Andrade of the WIB is the person to contact. The information sent is in a PDF format to print and distribute. We ask that you share valuable information with your customers and encourage attendance.

d) Pathway to Industrial Careers Pilot Program Nicola Wissler

This pilot program is currently developing a pipeline to connect individuals with our partners in the Industrial Park. We are looking for individuals that are wanting an industrial career and can provide them with a training contract, where they can earn up to \$4,800.00 (\$16.00 per hour with 300 hours). Individuals need to be 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or GED, have transportation to Visalia, be willing to follow instructions, be detail orientated with math, reading, and Computer skills. There is an interest form for those interested in participating. Allison Recendez and Christina Hopper are the contacts for this program.

e) National Dislocated Worker Grants (NDWG) Laurel Hernandez

The WIB has two (2) National Disaster Recovery Worker Grants

1. Wildfire Grant — to clean up damage from the 2020 fires in The Sequoia National Forest
2. Contact Tracer — temporary positions as Contact Tracer trainees to report the impact of COVID-19.

To participate in these programs, one must be enrolled in WIOA as a Dislocated Worker. Job notices and links to the applications are on the Employment Connection and social media account websites. They can also be done through partner referral or at the Employment Connection itself. We have positions available for Contact Tracers, however, the Wildfire positions are currently filled.

f) Employment Connection Center and OSO Reports Handouts

The reports were emailed to ECC Designees yesterday, 11/16/2021.

6) ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Robert Kleyn

Carla Calhoun – CSET — Mentioned the excitement of the Community Probation Center in Visalia Craig and his team are participating with the Planning Committee for the Open House, scheduled tentatively, on December 8, 2021.

Larriann Torres – Porterville Adult School (PAS) — Online registration will begin December 20, 2021, for classes starting January 10, 2022. We have in-class, independent study, and online class options available. This information will be in the next newsletter.

Tammy Olsen – Visalia Adult School (VAS) — We are looking forward to the Community Probation Center opening. This will be great for our Justice-Involved students from our HISET and CTE Programs. Open Enrollment is happening right now for Spring. The C.N.A. class has reached capacity; another will be offered in the Spring. The Medical Assistant lottery is at the beginning of December. We are expanding both Electrical & Construction Programs as they were full. We are having our mid-year commencement ceremony on January 10, 2022, for those students that complete their programs in December. We will begin a modernization building project in March of 2022, to expand our C.N.A. student capacity, separate our Certified Nursing Assistant and Vocational Nurse Lab.

Victoria Guzman – Cutler-Orosi Adult School (COAS) — We are looking at expanding as we have received a grant to expand our building to have a CTE in the Construction Trades in our near future

John Werner – Sequoias Adult Education Consortium (SAEC) — We have a board meeting coming up they are once per month, and everybody is always invited to attend. Our three-year plan is due, we are hoping to have the plan completed and to our board by this upcoming May. Our consultant Mitch Rosen will be contacting some of you if he has not already.

Lori Morton – Tulare Adult School (TAS) — Introduced herself as the new director of Tulare Adult School. Tulare Adult School opened registration for Spring Semester on November 01, 2021. Our Spring C.N.A. Program is full. We have one more orientation for our Medical Assistant Program this afternoon with the program starting February 2022. We have available spots in our Culinary, Welding, and Office Occupation Courses. Starting January 10, 2022, we are expanding our Office Occupations to include certification in Microsoft Office Word (Monday/Wednesday), Excel (Tuesday/Thursday), and a QuickBooks class (Friday).

7) ECC Meeting Dates – 2022

February 17, May 19, August 18, November 17

1) ADJOURN 11:08 am