

## Employment Connection Council (ECC) Minutes February 17, 2021

### In Attendance

**Member:** Sofia Morales (Chair), David McMunn, Carla Calhoun, Nick Brown, Roxanna Cruz, Robert Gonzales, Michelle Engal-Silva, John Werner, Darlene Tyndal, Tammy Olson, Larriann Torrez, Jonna Schengel, Michelle Miller-Galaz.

**WIB Staff:** Adam Peck, Edith Hernandez, Elizabeth Dodd (scribe), Lisa Martinez, Nicola Wissler, John Gonzalez, Christina Hopper. **Other:** Natalia Carroll, Monica Andrade, Juan Salinas, Alberto Arzate, Martha Guerra, Jonathan Thompson, Craig Plath, Maria Guerrero, Lola Balandran, Rudy Roman.

1) **Call to order: 10:02 a.m.**

2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**

3) **CONSENT ITEMS**

**Approve February 17, 2021, Employment Connection Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Larriann Torrez, second by Carla Calhoun to approve the Consent Items; carried by unanimous vote.

4) **REGULAR ITEMS – Edith Hernandez**

a. **Approve the Employment Connection Electronic Partner Referral** Edith Hernandez

WIB staff recommends the approval of the electronic Employment Connection partner referral application to facilitate referrals between partners and provide a customer-centered approach to our system service delivery.

**Ms. Hernandez provided a thorough descriptive summary of the electronic partner referral's purpose of use, location, ease of use, and backup if the electronic referral is not available.**

*Motion to approve regular item a was made by Mr. D. McMunn second by Ms. L. Torres; motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

5) **ONE-STOP OPERATOR ITEMS**

a) **Employment Connection Partner Updates**

Edith Hernandez

i. **Employment Connection COVID-19 Safety Work Plan**

**The Employment Connection centers remain open for customers and partners. The centers are following CDC Guidance. As large gatherings are not allowed, staff creatively found ways to manage and accommodate special recruitments while keeping within CDCs' guidelines.**

ii. **System Staff Training**

**Ms. Hernandez shared she is currently working on coordinating different trainings for system staff. Email invitations will be sent as trainings are developed and calendared. Our integrated teams, Welcome, Skills and talents, and Employment Solutions meet monthly; invitations have been extended to include the affiliate sites. The Business Resource Team is providing training on the LMI and its uses on March 2, 2021. The Department of Rehabilitation provided excellent training to our staff on Deaf Culture & Community and Disability Etiquette. We are now collaborating with our partners to facilitate virtual workshops. EDD and ESE are working with partner staff to provide these workshops.**

b) **System Resources**

i. **Virtual Services: Job Connect, Recruitment, Workshops**

Monica Andrade

**Ms. Andrade provided a detailed summary of the Employment Connection System provisions for Virtual Services, Job Connect, Recruitment, and Workshops. She stated Job Connect began on April 7, 2020, and the Employment Connection System has assisted a total of 39 employers with 128,000 views of their companies. Ms. Hernandez added these services use Facebook Live. There is a link on the Employment Connection website to access and view the uploaded employers; for those without access to Facebook Live.**

ii. Training Connect

Blanca Bonilla

**Ms. Price filled in for Blanca Bonilla – She shared that Training Connect is a session on Facebook Live that provides information on Vocational Services offered through the Employment Connection System. Sessions are held weekly on Wednesdays at 9:00 am. Tulare County Residents interested in receiving a WIOA Scholarship fill out an interest form or call the iHub number, are prescreened then scheduled for an interview for the eligibility process. Training Connect is new and working well since it started.**

c) Integrated Teams Updates

i. Welcome

Natalia Carroll

**The Employment Connection System's Welcome Team members are the first impression of our One-stop system. They are comprised of Reception Staff, Intake & Eligibility Staff, EDD Resource Staff, and Resource Room Monitoring Staff. They welcome, record visits, and guide our customers to facilitate their purpose of visiting the Employment Connection System. Currently, they are in phase one, learning about each other and how to utilize our resources to meet the needs of our customers.**

ii. Skills & Talent

Alberto Arzate

**Mr. Arzate -- The Skills and Talent Team focuses on providing The Employment Connection System Professionals the opportunity to communicate, share best practices, and continue to evaluate our integrated delivery of resources available to our customers. Currently, The Skills & Talent Team meets one to two times a month to identify gaps in services to better prepare ourselves to provide a quality service to our customers. The team identified three gaps in our Service Delivery, Work readiness, Professional Development & System Program Resources, and Self-Service Readiness. Our team is currently working on ways and means to fill those gaps.**

iii. Employment Solutions – Business Services

John Gonzalez

**Mr. Gonzalez - The Employment Solutions Team is a platform that coordinates outreach, shares effective practices, and identifies common challenges for each site. The team meets every 4th Thursday of the month with the Business Services Team to develop strategies for individual sites and then share those strategies throughout the system.**

**6) DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

a) Welcome New ECC Designee's:

i. Darlene Tyndal, Tulare County Office of Education

**Ms. Tyndal - Introduced herself and stated that she is new to The Tulare County Office of Education and is currently filling Ms. Patino's (who has retired) position. She started with TCOE Mid-December of 2020. Her prior work history is with Private Business, CSET, Proteus, plus she served on the WIB Board several years ago; she is happy to be here.**

ii. Jonna Schengel, College of the Sequoias

*(briefly stepped away/computer froze)*

iii. Dr. Michelle Miller-Galaz, Porterville College

**Ms. Miller-Galaz – I am with Porterville College for one year and with the Kern Community College District for four years.**

b) WIB Executive Director Report

Adam Peck

**Mr. Peck – Began by recognizing the new members of the ECC. Announced WIB Board action to release our RFPs for our Comprehensive & Affiliate Sites, Youth Program Areas, and Branding of the Employment Connection and Youth Program. He explained the different steps of the proposal from beginning to end and encouraged all to view them on the WIB website. He then spoke on HR-6646 Relaunching America's Workforce Act. This piece of legislation, if passed, focuses on how our systems can get investments to help the recovery of our economy and provided a brief explanation of allocations the bill has lined out for WIOA Funding.**

c) WIB's Request for Approval to be the America's Job Center

Adam Peck

of California (AJCC) Operator for the Employment Connection

**Mr. Peck – Spoke on the WIB Board approving the request to continue being our own One-stop Operator. This is the role Ms. Hernandez has filled for the last year and is the direction the WIB and Employment Connection System would**

like to continue. Ms. Hernandez Thanked those who wrote support letters to aid our request.

- d) Branding for the Employment Connection System Update Nicola Wissler  
Ms. Wissler – Reiterated the release of the RFQ. She went over the history of the original brands and all the updates to the year 2015. She went over the areas and expectations the RFQ will include for the upcoming new vendor contract and provided a timeline to coincide with the start of the new provider contracts.
- e) Rapid Response John Gonzalez  
Mr. Gonzalez - Since January 1st, there have been nine orientations of which we served five affected persons. To provide a better response to the Orientations, we reached out to the local chambers for assistance. With an industry-specific orientation, such as Hair & Nail Salons, we were able to capture a much larger group of affected persons. Our team is continuously looking for new ways to broaden our outreach.
- f) AJCC Comprehensive and Affiliate Certification (WSDD-218) Edith Hernandez  
Ms. Hernandez - Draft Directive WSDD-218 Comprehensive & Affiliate Specialized Certification becomes effective March 1, 2021. Our centers will first align the Baseline Certification, assuring they meet Key WIOA statutory & regulatory requirements. The Hallmarks of Excellence renamed AJCC Certification Indicator Assessment, is the assessment that shows us how we are performing and where we can improve our services. Both the Baseline and AJCC Certifications submission due date is April 30, 2021.
- g) Employment Connection Center Reports Handouts  
Ms. Morales Chair- Handouts were provided with the agenda packets. There is a lot of excellent information listed, all are encouraged to view them.

## 7) ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Mr. Werner – Sequoia Adult Education Consortium (SAEC) – SAEC is engaging a marketing program the SAEC Board just approved a contract with NNR Publishing. The end-product will be a newspaper insert/flier which will go into our local newspapers. This will be a full press package where the media will get our portion done complete and then they can pull from it. Sharing Stories about our partnerships through the lenses of student success; the theme being used.

Ms. Olsen – Visalia Adult School & Tulare Adult School – Tulare and Visalia Adult Schools have open enrollments for our High School Diploma, High School Equivalency, ESL, and Citizenship. Tulare Adult has registration & Orientation for their Medical Assistant Program Starting April 28, 2021 classes start in August. Phlebotomy registration March 1, 2021 classes start in August. Visalia Adult School is opening another eight-week course for C.N.A. that will start in May a lottery will be held in Mid-April. The Vocational Nursing Program for fall will start August 2021, is open right now for registration, testing, interviews, and receive packets to begin the program in August. We are working on offering a basic electrical class the goal start is for Mid-March.

Mr. Gonzalez – Cutler-Orosi Adult School – Cutler Orosi Adult School has open enrollments for ESL, High School Diploma, and High School Equivalency. We also offer small cohort instruction (7-1 ratio) for those who need in person training.

## 8) ECC NEXT MEETING

Sofia Morales

Next Meeting May 19, 2021

## 9) ADJORN