



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, November 13, 2025; 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Employment Connection Center – 4025 West Noble, Visalia

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS (Three minutes per individual/organization, fifteen minutes total).** Any member of the public wishing to address the Employment Connection Committee on a specific matter under its jurisdiction, please notify WIB staff of your name and provide a brief description of the subject matter before the meeting. The Employment Connection Committee will not be able to act on any item that does not appear on the agenda.

3) **CONSENT ITEMS** – All under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be approved in one action without discussion. If a committee member requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, or a citizen wishes to speak on an item, the item will be considered under Action Items.

a) Employment Connection Committee Meeting Minutes

- i. Approve August 21, 2025, Employment Committee Meeting Minutes.

4) ONE-STOP OPERATOR (OSO) ITEMS

a) System Integration Workgroup Updates

Status report on progress and next steps for EC Integration Workgroups.

b) Visalia Employment Connection – Update on SER-Jobs for Progress Colocation

c) WIOA Title I Adult & Youth - Partner Referral Options

Discussion on referral pathways and coordination options for shared customers.

d) Employment Connection Center Updates

Employment Connection Site Coordinators will provide a brief overview of center activities, highlight customer experience, system integration efforts, program updates, and upcoming priorities.

5) DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

a) WIB Executive Director Report

b) Ag Skills Advancement Project

The Ag Skills Advancement project supports individuals from historically underserved farmworker communities who have been affected by COVID-19, climate change, and evolving agricultural practices. The project offers career services, occupational skills training, and cohort-based programs to help participants access, re-enter, or advance in high-quality jobs across growing industries.

c) Business Services Updates

- Recruitment Assistance – Job Connect, Tulare County Job Fair
- Rapid Response
- Industry Sector Partnerships: Tulare-Kings Healthcare, Industrial, and Ag Skills

d) Employment Connection Center and OSO Reports (*Handouts*)

6) ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

7) ECC Meeting Dates – 2026

February 12, 2026, May 14, 2026, August 13, 2026, November 12, 2026

8) ADJOURN

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Laura Castanon at 559-713-5200 no later than noon the Wednesday before the meeting.

Documents related to the items on this agenda which are distributed to the committee members are available for public inspection in the WIB office, located at 309 W. Main St., Suite 120, Visalia, CA



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Employment Connection Center – 4025 West Noble, Visalia
Thursday, August 21, 2025

Employment Connection Committee (ECC) Members Present:

Jennie Bautista, Aleyda Montenegro, Michelle Engle-Silva, Jonna Schengel, Larriann Torrez, Carla Calhoun, Tami Olson, Misty Bond, Marco Vasquez

Employment Connection Committee (ECC) Members Absent:

Teri Dobson, Robert Kleyn-Chair, Michelle Miller-Galaz, John Werner, Victoria Guzman, Paul Prado, Jean Cardenas, Danielle Beckett

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Jennie Bautista called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- 2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jennie Bautista called for public comments; none were presented.
- 3) **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a) Employment Connection Committee Meeting Minutes
 - i. Approve May 15, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Larriann Torrez, seconded by Aleyda Montenegro, to approve the Consent Items; carried.

4) **PARTNER PRESENTATION**

Parenting Network, Inc.

Shawn Mooney shared an overview of Project Fatherhood, a Parenting Network program designed to engage fathers and promote family stability. Harlye Sanchez provided an overview of Parenting Network programs, which are now collocated at the Visalia Employment Connection. Handouts were presented on the Parenting Network programs and Project Fatherhood.

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

- a) ECC Meeting Date Update & 2026 Schedule

Edith Hernandez provided an update on the upcoming ECC meeting schedule. Due to scheduling conflicts, meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of each month.

 - **Next Meeting (2025):** November 13, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- **Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule** (10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
 - February 12, 2026
 - May 14, 2026
 - August 13, 2026
 - November 12, 2026

b) PY 25-26 Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA) with Employment Connection Partners at the Employment Connection Centers in Porterville and Visalia

Edith Hernandez provided an overview of the Employment Connection IFA timeline, approved by the Board on August 6, 2025. The agreement covers April through September 11, 2025, outlining key phases from partner areas assessments to final signatures. Partners are to return signed copies by September 11, 2025, to meet the MOU completion by September 15, 2025.

c) PY 24-25 Partner Referral Overview

Edith Hernandez provided an overview of the Partner Referral Activity for the 2024-2025 program year.

- 1,174 referrals to Employment Connection
- 420 Youth Services referrals
- 2253 Total Partner referrals

A handout was presented summarizing the referral data.

d) System Integration Workgroup Update

Edith Hernandez provided an update on the System Integration Workgroups and their designated leads:

1. **Partnership Relationship Building Workshops** - Lead: Aleyda Montenegro
2. **Customer Experience-Referral Data Collection and Use** - Jennie Bautista
3. **Training & Professional Development** - John Werner
 - Recommended addition: Denise Douglas (Porterville Adult School)

6) DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

a) WIB Executive Director Report

Adam Peck provided an update on federal and state workforce developments. America's Talent Strategy – U.S. Departments of Labor, Commerce, and Education collaboration on workforce coordination and industry-driven approaches. Discussion on potential block grant consolidation of WIOA Title I-IV and related funding streams. Short-term Pell Grants have been approved, with rulemaking expected by July 2026. On-going California Master Plan for Career Education and regional coordination efforts. Adam announced his departure as WIB Executive Director, with Jennie Bautista to be appointed Interim Director pending approval by the Board of Supervisors.

A handout was presented on America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age and Adams' farewell gathering.

b) Employment Connection Rural and Balance of Counties Initiatives – Adult and Youth@work Programs

Tom Price with Middlestate and Desiree Landeros with WIB updated on the Rural Service Strategy and Rural Location by Region. They held two large group listening sessions, followed by smaller focus group discussions. Building strong, resilient communities requires holistic, trusted systems—not a patchwork of services.

c) Business Services Updates

Ryan Leasure updated on Business Services.

Recruitment Assistance –Job Connect:

- Upcoming 33rd Tulare County Job Fair - October 1, 2025, at the Visalia Convention Center from 9 AM to 12:00 PM. expecting 1,000-1,500 attendees.

Rapid Response:

- 40 businesses served, 4249 workers impacted; 1460 received individualized assistance. Outreach conducted across Dinuba, Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia

Sector Partnership Highlights:

- Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership: Planning the 2025 Multi-Sector Summit; focus on non-clinical healthcare roles.
- Tulare-King Industrial Partnership: Ongoing review of electrical automation technician programs and upcoming Industrial Summit- October 3, 2025, in Lemoore.
- Tulare-Kings Ag Skills Partnership: Continued collaboration with industry and schools to strengthen career pathways.

d) INNOVATORS by Design - Nicola Wissler

Save the Date: 2025 Innovators by Design (IBD) Conference, October 8, 2025, at the Visalia Convention Center

e) Employment Connection Center and OSO Reports (*Handouts*)

7) ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Partners shared brief updates and expressed appreciation to Adam for his leadership and collaboration throughout his career.

8) ECC Meeting Dates – 2025 – November 13, 2025

9) ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Jennie Bautista at 11:37 a.m.



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TO: Employment Connection Committee
FROM: Edith Hernandez, Partner Services Coordinator
DATE: November 13, 2025
REPORT: Employment Connection One-Stop Operator Report

Highlights from April 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

Activity	Brief Narrative
Partner Referrals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner Referrals Submitted: 910• Specific Referrals to partners:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Employment Connection: 503○ youth@work Program: 123○ HHSA: 96○ CSET: 48○ Proteus: 27○ DOR: 50○ Visalia Adult School: 14○ COS: 7○ WIB Special Grants: 6○ Porterville Adult School: 5○ SER: 10○ Tulare Adult School: 7○ Parenting Network: 1○ EDD: 1
EC System Integrated Workgroups: Customer Experience, Partner Relationship Building, Training & Professional Development	<p>Employment Connection System Integration Workgroups Overview</p> <p>Based on input from previous ECC discussions, three workgroups have been established to strengthen service integration across partners and improve support for shared customers. The work will be completed in phases and led by Employment Connection system staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1 focuses on developing detailed work plans and identifying actionable milestones needed to launch each group's efforts successfully• Phase 2 will establish measurable key results and assess the overall impact of the work. <p>Phase 1 Project Period: December 1, 2025 – May 14, 2026</p> <p>ECC Expectation: Each Action Team will complete its planning worksheet, implement initial activities, and provide quarterly progress updates to the Employment Connection Committee (ECC). Phase 1 focuses on establishing shared goals, building collaboration, and developing tools that strengthen system integration.</p>

Action Team 1: Partner Relationship Building

Goal: Strengthen collaboration between partners through engagement, networking, and planning based on customer needs.

Team Lead: Aleyda Montenegro

Team Members: EDD, Amanda Miller (Visalia EC), Tami Olson (VAS), Michelle Silva (Proteus), Larriann Torrez (PAS)

Phase 1 Priorities:

1. Expand system onboarding and cross-training to build partner knowledge of programs, services, and resources that support shared customers.
2. Enhance the Partner Guide to serve as a practical, customer-centered tool that helps staff connect individuals to the right partner service.
3. Create networking opportunities between all partner staff to strengthen relationships, share updates, and foster a unified Employment Connection system culture.

Action Team 2: Customer Experience & Referral Data Collection & Use

Goal: Improve coordination of services by identifying shared customers and creating a seamless referral process across partners.

Team Lead: Mary Rodarte

Team Members: EDD, Carmen Becerra (SAEC), Maria Guerrero (CSET Y@W), Milee Vang (VAS), Proteus Staff

Phase 1 Priorities:

1. Identify referral challenges and bottlenecks across partner agencies, distinguishing between organization-specific issues and system-wide process barriers.
2. Develop recommendations to address identified referral challenges and bottlenecks, focusing on both organizational improvements and system-wide solutions.
3. Develop and implement a customer satisfaction survey focused on the referral experience to gather feedback on how effectively customers are connected to partner services and identify opportunities to improve coordination and follow-up.

Action Team 3: Training & Professional Development

Goal: Ensure staff are cross-trained and equipped to deliver seamless, customer-centered services that evolve with changing needs.

Team Lead: John Werner

Team Members: EDD, Denise Douglas (PAS), Carla Calhoun (CSET), Ryan Waters (VAS)

	<p>Phase 1 Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify system training needs by gathering input from partners to ensure staff development aligns with current and emerging customer needs. 2. Establish an EC System training calendar that coordinates and tracks professional development opportunities across all partner agencies. 3. Partners identify a “Training Navigator” within each partner organization to participate in training, share information with their teams, and champion continuous learning across the system. <p><u>ECC Role:</u> The ECC will review progress quarterly, provide guidance to support alignment across teams, and identify opportunities to integrate outcomes from each workgroup into the broader Employment Connection System strategy, as well as approve recommendations.</p>
<p>Actions Process updates, Training opportunities</p>	<p>Employment Connection System Onboarding Orientation WIB staff has developed and launched a system-wide training to onboard new Employment Connection partners and subrecipients and provide a refresher for existing staff. The training is offered monthly, and attendees gain an understanding of the workforce system and their role within the system.</p> <p>Onboarding Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration – completed through an online registration form on Eventbrite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EC Partners: https://bit.ly/49ALM2W ○ Subrecipients (staff providing services through WIB-funded programs): email Edith Hernandez, edith.hernandez@tularewib.org