

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2026

WIB Directors Present: Colby Wells – Chair, Joe Hallmeyer – Vice Chair, Randy Baerg – Treasurer/Secretary, Amy Shuklian, Esbeydy Ruvalcaba, Gamaliel Aguilar, Graciela Soto, Jake Piland, Miguel Mora, Rodney Wilson, Yolanda Valdez

WIB Directors Absent: Brandon Lovenburg, Brent Calvin, Thomas Geiger, Tricia Stever Blattler

1. **Call to Order:** Colby Wells, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Colby Wells, Chair, called for public comments; there were no public comments.
3. **Success Story:** [Business Services Success Story - J&R Meat](#) has been a long-time partner with Employment Connection. They are known for helping local job seekers get a fresh start, build new skills, and gain the confidence they need to find self-sustaining work that they can be proud of.
4. **Consent Items:**
 - a. Workforce Investment Board Meeting Minutes
Approve May 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.
 - b. Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Delegated Authority Resolution
Approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign contracts, agreements, and related documents on behalf of the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County.
 - c. Reappointment of Workforce Investment Board Directors
Recommend the reappointment of the following seven individuals to the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County Board of Directors for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030, contingent upon approval by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors:
 1. Colby Wells, Business, Southern California Gas Company
 2. Randy Baerg, Business, Warren & Baerg Manufacturing, Inc.
 3. Graciela Soto, Business, Altura Centers for Health
 4. Thomas Geiger, Labor, Roofers & Waterproofers Local #27

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5. Brandon Lovenburg, Labor, Plumbers, Fitters, HVACR, & Pipeliners U.A. Local #246
 6. Yolanda Valdez, Title II Adult Education and Literacy, Cutler-Orosi Joint Union School District
 7. Brent Calvin, Higher Education, College of the Sequoias
- d. Agreement with Visalia Economic Development Corporation for Business Engagement and Marketing Services
Approve entering into an agreement with Visalia Economic Development Corporation (VEDC) for PY 26-27 to provide business engagement and marketing services.
- e. Agreements and Funding for Specialized Grants
WIB staff recommend:
- i. Approve an agreement with the Tulare County Probation Department to accept \$255,654 to continue to operate the Readiness for Education and Sustaining Employment Training (RESET) program. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
 - ii. Approve an agreement with the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to accept \$1,300,000 to continue to operate the Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) Program. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
 - iii. Approve an agreement with the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to accept \$200,000 to continue to operate the Leading, Education, Advocating, and Dedication (LEAD) program. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

A motion was made by Graciela Soto and seconded by Gamaliel Aguilar to approve the Consent Items. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. Regular Items:

- a. WIOA Title I Youth and Specialized Workforce Grant Allocations for PY 26-27 Out-of-School Youth Services Agreements
The Program and Evaluation Committee recommends that the WIB allocate PY 26-27 WIOA Title I Youth and Specialized Workforce Grants, contingent upon receipt of funds, to the previously approved WIOA Title I Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Services agreements, as follows:
- i. Allocate up to \$1,928,040 to Community Services Employment Training (CSET) for the West Region – Comprehensive Center in Visalia and Balance of County in Agreement 26-SRC-16.
 - ii. Allocate up to \$1,440,000 to Proteus, Inc. for the East Region – Porterville and Balance of County in Agreement 26-SRC-15.

A motion was made by Rodney Wilson and seconded by Yolanda Valdez to approve the WIOA Title I Youth and Specialized Workforce Grant Allocations for PY 26-27 Out-of-School Youth Services Agreements. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

b. WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Specialized Workforce Grant Allocations for PY 26-27 Career Services Agreements

The Program and Evaluation Committee recommends that the WIB allocate PY 26-27 WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Specialized Workforce Grants, contingent upon receipt of funds, to the previously approved WIOA Title I Career Services agreements, as follow:

- i. Allocate up to \$3,533,460 to Community Services Employment Training (CSET) for the West Region - Comprehensive Center in Visalia, Tulare affiliate, and associated rural communities in Agreement 26-SRC-18.
- ii. Allocate up to \$2,160,990 to Proteus, Inc for the East Region - Comprehensive Center in Porterville, Dinuba affiliate, and associated rural communities in Agreement 26-SRC-17.

A motion was made by Yolanda Valdez and seconded by Miguel Mora to approve the WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Specialized Workforce Grant Allocations for PY 26-27 Career Services Agreements. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Workforce Investment Board Budget

Approve the Workforce Investment Board budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

A motion was made by Graciela Soto and seconded by Esbeydy Ruvalcaba to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Workforce Investment Board Budget. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Information/Discussion Items:

- a. Agreements Executed by the WIB Executive Director Between \$5,000 and \$20,000
- b. Workforce Data Newsletter – Volume 11, Issue 4 – April 2026
- c. Tulare County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) – April 2026

7. WIB Committee Reports:

- a. Employment Connection Committee

8. Good of the Order/Adjourn: There being no further business, Colby Wells, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

Minutes submitted for approval by Randy Baerg, Secretary.


Randy Baerg, Secretary


Date Approved