



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Employment Connection Center – 4025 West Noble Ave., Visalia
Thursday, November 16, 2023

Employment Connection Committee (ECC) Members Present:

Robert Kleyn-Chair, Jennie Bautista, Aleyda Montenegro, Lori Morton, Tami Olson, Victoria Guzman, Michelle Engle-Silva, Christina Garza, Ivet Soria, Nuvia Varela

Employment Connection Committee (ECC) Members Absent:

Misty Bond, Teri Dobson, Michelle Miller-Galaz, Jonna Schengel, Carla Calhoun, Saul Palomares, Larriann Torrez, Melissa Abby, John Werner, Darlene Tyndal,

1) CALL TO ORDER: Robert Kleyn-Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Robert Kleyn introduced New ECC Member Nuvia Varela with America Works of California, Inc.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Robert Kleyn-Chair called for public comments. Robert introduced new Employment Connection Committee Member Nuvia Varela with Ticket to Work.

3) CONSENT ITEMS:

i. Approve August 17, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ivet Soria, seconded by Tami Olson to approve the Consent Items, carried by unanimous vote.

4) ONE-STOP OPERATOR (OSO) ITEMS

a) Employment Connection Onboarding

Edith Hernandez updated on the Employment Connection System Onboarding Orientation held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

- WIB Staff developed a monthly orientation for new and experienced staff.
- Learn about their role within the EC System
- Essential information about the EC and partners
- EC Partner branding
- Meet and greet with WIB Staff

Supporting and Strengthening system integration!

The EC Onboarding started in June 2022

- 127 staff completed onboarding.
- Staff feel supported
 - Have a clear understanding about who the WIB and the Employment Connection
 - Partnership Network
 - How to make referrals
 - Access to system information
- Continuous improvement – staff input

b) Employment Connection System Training

Edith Hernandez discussed that she met a year ago with a sub-committee of the EC Committee and talked about different training courses our system needed. Training our EC system staff and system meaning “all partners” and what’s important to us. Edith provided an overview of 2023 training:

- Communicating with Success – 3-week training
- Customer Service Academy - 9-week training
- Trauma-Informed Care & Awareness - 6-week training
- EC Cross-Training Sessions

Train the trainer, which means anyone who attends these training courses can train their peers. The training courses are available on the Employment Connection Universal Drive.

2024 Employment Connection System Training

- December 2023
Conducting effective meetings
Cohort 1: Conducting effective virtual workshops.
- January 2024
Developing relationships in a hybrid workplace
Three habits of highly effective remote workers
Effective remote management of people.
- February 2024
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – 5-week virtual training series
- April 2024
Cohort 1: ACE Trauma-informed training
Cohort 2: ACE Trauma-informed training
- Fall 2024
Safe Zone Project Training

- c) Dinuba Employment Connection Open House & Ribbon Cutting
December 5, 2023, Dinuba, CA
Ribbon Cutting 1:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
Open House 1:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

5) DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) WIB Executive Director Report

Adam Peck updated on the sector work John Gonzalez and his Business Team work on for the WIB. The WIB of Tulare County, along with two additional areas, were selected by EDD to apply for a Federal Grant and was awarded one million dollars. Our proposed project, “Strengthening Tulare County’s Agricultural Workforce”, aims to equip farmworkers and residents of disinvested communities with the skills needed to secure good jobs in the evolving agricultural landscape and other growth sectors. Adam discussed the Good Jobs Challenges Initiative with the South Valley Industrial Collaborative. State Advocacy System: Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Policy & Procedures, WIOA training funding and proposing a change to legislation funding at the States level.

- b.) Strengthening Pathways between Workforce and Adult Education for Individuals without a High School Diploma for Employment Connection System Customers

Jennie Bautista discussed some work and strategies to develop and support our individuals without a high school diploma or high school equivalency (GED). Jennie asked the ECC members for input on how to better serve these customers without a high school diploma or GED. Customers served last year at Employment Connection about 20% did not have a high school diploma or GED. Through EC Talent Pool strategies, Employment Connection and Youth programs one of the skills needed to be part of the Talent Pool is a high school diploma or GED. Due to lack of certificates customers are struggling to make it into the Talent Pool. Analyzing the enrollment numbers, understanding what happens to them in our system. Questions surfed were: Who are they? What kind of challenges are they experiencing? EC Talent Pool would like to develop a better data system for tracking these customers, interviewing each customer, and possibly providing incentives for completing these certificates.

Responses:

Tami Olson/VAS.-Offer support for fees for test. 4 tests cost \$120.

Ivet Soria/Root & Rebound – Assist with transportation, provide a 30-day pass.

Victoria Guzman/ Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District – Some are afraid and have trust issues.

c.) 2023 Tulare County Job Fair – John Gonzalez

The 31st Annual Tulare County Job Fair was held on October 4th.

Event Overview:

- Job Seekers: 962 jobseekers attended, An increase of 317 from the previous year.
- Employers: 100 employers participated
- Sponsorships: Supported by 13 sponsors, reflecting support from businesses and community organizations.

d.) Business Services Updates – John Gonzalez

- Recruitment Assistance

Job Connect - Attended 34 Porterville and 39 Visalia

Offer weekly opportunities for customers.

Visalia Development Corporation Job Fair – February 7th, 2024

Recruitment Assistance – Job Connect

Contact: Monica Andrade

Mandrade@tularewib.org

559.713.5214

- Rapid Response

Engaged with businesses:

Sonoco Display & Packaging, LLC: 29 layoffs

Nestle Tulare/Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream: 300 layoffs

Svenhards Swedish Bakery: 29 layoffs

Ruan: 90 layoffs

Rapid Response

Contact: Ryan Leasure

Rleasure@tularewib.org

559.361.6824

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

None presented – Handouts distributed to ECC Members

If you have any information, please email Edith Hernandez @

ehernandez3@tularewib.org

f.) **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Edith Hernandez/WIB – Please contact me if you want to present or have questions.

Mellissa Abby/Job Corps - Job Corps provides free career training and education for 16-

through 24-year-olds. We have over 120 campuses across the U.S. where students gain the experience needed to begin a career or apprenticeship, advance to higher education, or join the military.

Lori Morton/TAS – Registration opened for Spring Semester, new pathways certificate program in child education, many classes are offered, childcare offered for students enrolled.

Christina Garza/EDD – Specialized Programs discussed, and EDD staff continue to work hybrid.

Aleyda Montenegro/HHSA – CalWORKs partnership with COS, Liaison at Visalia & Porterville offices, continue to refer your customers.

Michelle Engle-Silva/Proteus, Inc. – Assist with five Division Programs: Farmworkers, Energy Weatherization, William M. Maguy School, Workforce Development, Foster Aging, Storm Grant SCE, Assistance for undocumented people.

Proteus, Inc. Annual Open House

December 7th, 2023 @ 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

1830 N. Dinuba Blvd., Visalia

Nuvia Varela/America Works Ticket to Work – Assist with jobs, and retain those jobs, Help them transition, provide support services and develop a positive routine. Continued support while on the job with a variety of training and certificates.

Victoria Guzman/Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District – The websites courses & skills were updated for the students.

Tami Olson/VAS – Closing semester, recruitment services, registration starts January 19, 2024. Lottery for certified Nurse Assistants on December 16, 2023, success stories were broadcasted around the area. Industrial programs focus on Integrated English program, Title two funds, second language learners, resident care worker.

Ivet Soria/Root & Rebound – Advocacy for formerly incarcerated women looking to improve their employment opportunities and build financial security. Closed December 18th - January 14th, 2024.

Rober Klyn/Department of Rehab. – Vocational services offered to individuals with disabilities.

g.) **ECC Meeting Dates – 2024** (Third Thursday of the month)

- February 15, 2024
- May 16, 2024
- August 15, 2024
- November 21, 2024

h.) **Good of the Order/Adjourn:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Robert Kleyn, chair, at 11:14 a.m.