

## Employment Connection Council (ECC) Minutes August 18, 2021

### In Attendance

**Designees:** Robert Klyen(Chair), Carla Calhoun, Darlene Tyndal, Jennie Bautista, John Werner, Jonna Schengel, Larriann Torrez, Michelle Engel-Silva Nick Brown, Roxanna Cruz, Tammy Olson, **WIB Staff:** Adam Peck, Christina Hopper David McMunn, Edith Hernandez (facilitator), Mary Rodarte, Nicola Wissler, Lisa Martinez, **Other:** Craig Plath, Daisy Guzman, Juan Salinas, LeaAnn Price, Lola Balandran, Maria Guerrero, Martha Guerra, Sara Besson

- 1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** The meeting began at 9:46 am with the introduction of Mr. Robert Klein, our new WIB Board-appointed chair. Mr. Klein spoke on and introduced us to our new changes within our membership designees.
- 2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments
- 3) **CONSENT ITEMS –**
  - a) Approve May 19, 2021, Employment Connection Committee Meeting Minutes  
Motion by Larriann Torrez, second by Carla Calhoun to approve the Consent Items; carried by unanimous vote
- 4) **ONE-STOP OPERATOR (OSO) ITEMS** Edith Hernandez
  - a) Employment Connection Partner Referrals (Electronic)  
Provided a brief outline of the electronic referral process through the Employment Connect website. The referral system started in February of 2021. The referral system can be used by partner & non-partner agencies. Since the new referral process began, we received a total of 163. So far, 8 of our 16 participating partners have received referrals; a breakdown was provided.
  - b) Partner Guide  
The Partner Guide is a great tool to use when processing an electronic referral. We are focusing on four main areas to update the form. Which are Organization Specialty, Programs for Referrals, Services, and Minimum Eligibility Requirements. Partner follow-ups are coming to discuss key points of input to update this guide; training will follow the update.
- 5) **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**
  - a) WIB Executive Director Report Adam Peck
    - i. Meeting through ZOOM will cease at the end of September 2021. The Brown Act currently has legislation at the state level, including the use of modern technology.
    - ii. The WIB is having their annual meeting, long called, Innovators by Design, registration is open.
    - iii. The Local and Regional Plan was approved by the State last week
    - iv. The structure of the WIB's Two (2) Deputy directors explained, one being operations (J. Bautista) the other being Administration (D. McMunn).
    - v. Two National Dislocated Worker Grant monies have been secured one will restart Contact Tracing and the other for last year's Wildfire -we do have an initial \$100,000 and the new grant will add to that to help rebuild and prepare for the future of our parks and forests.
    - vi. We have a new suite next to the WIB office we are calling the Industry Partnership Center. Inside this center, we have a few Business Service Specialists (WIB employees), the Economic Development Center and are finalizing a partnership with the SBDC. This new suite has larger meeting rooms our goal is for this to be our Business Facing Center.

- vii. WIOA Funding took a big hit in this current program year. Congress is working on an infrastructure bill to increase the availability of monies for our programs.

b) **Sector Based Caseload Pilot Program**

Inez De Ocio

The Department of Rehabilitation is piloting a Sector Based Caseload for persons with disabilities seeking or preparing for employment in, Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, and Green Energy occupations. We have one of the two dedicated state-wide workers of the program. To qualify, the applicant must have documentation of a permanent disability and have an IEP or 504 from a high school or higher education. Services available are Training, Work Clothing and Tools, Job Readiness Training, and Job Placement Services. Those who have a customer that meets the requirements, please use the electronic referral process to get them started.

c) **Rapid Response**

Nicola Wissler

From July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, thirty-three businesses received Rapid Response services. Identifying Eleven-hundred fifty-seven affected workers to which eleven-hundred thirty-eight received information of services available. The Employment Connection System provided Eighty-three workshop opportunities for those affected workers to attend.

d) **2021 Annual Job Fair**

Nicola Wissler

This year's Job Fair is at the Visalia Convention Center. It is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup> and will open for Veterans at 8:30 am then to the public at 9:00 am. Our goal is to connect qualified jobseekers with local employers. Currently, we have, 49 employers, registered and can have up to one-hundred twenty booths this year. Employers that are wanting to participate can go to [www.tularecountyjobs.com](http://www.tularecountyjobs.com) and register. We have sold all of our sponsorships. Proteus is bringing their mobile bus with computers, printers, and wifi/internet to assist job fair participants. Health and Human Services will provide an opportunity to get a CoViD-19 shot at the event.

e) **Update on Rebranding of the Employment Connection System and Youth@Work Services**

Nicola Wissler

Introduced the new logo and several expressions of it for different uses. The AJCC center's name will remain Employment Connection. The colors were taken from the previous EC logo and the current WIB logo for cohesion purposes. Our team is working on the many levels of training and uses for the brand. We have at this time and in-house, Our Promise completed. Our Promise: **1.) Focus on empowering every person and business professional who reaches out to us for help. 2.) Create a welcoming space. 3.) Be a dependable resource.** We also have three areas in draft form for focus and unity. Our voice shall be, welcoming, hopeful, and empathetic. Our Message shall be, simple, friendly, direct, encouraging, and professional. Our customers should feel, equipped, supported, skilled, hopeful, confident, and connected to a valuable resource. Youth@Work is still at the beginning stage of the branding process.

f) **America's Job Center of California (AJCC) Certification for the Employment Connection**

Edith Hernandez

**Comprehensive and Affiliate Centers in Tulare County**

We are getting ready to perform the AJCC Certification for all four centers. This is a mandated opportunity to look at our AJCC System. Each center is reviewed as to its own and is not for comparison purposes. There are three performances to be measured, Baseline Certification, AJCC Certification Assessment, and Continuous Improvement Plan. The process is **1.) Neutral Third-Party Evaluator.** David Schinder is selected **2.) AJCC Certification Workgroup.** This workgroup is made-up of ECC Committee Members, our Core, and some Community Partners. **3.) Independent Center Evaluations. In September,** Mr. Schinder will meet with each site separately for a non-comparison evaluation. **4.) Continuous Improvement Plans.** Once Mr. Schinder finishes his evaluations, we will submit an unsigned certification to the State Board on November 1, 2021, and then to our Board on November 10, 2021. The state will provide a result (approved/not approved) by December 17, 2021, to which we will have until December 31, 2021, to complete the CIP.

g) **Employment Connection Center and OSO Reports**

Handouts

The Handout are in committee member packets.

**6) ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Robert Kleyn

**John Werner – Sequoia Adult Education Consortium (SAEC)**

Adult Education System is about to write another Three-year Comprehensive Plan which is a process very similar to the WIB's Local and Regional Planning. We will bring together our stakeholders and review what is working, what needs to be improved/eliminated, and identify if there are gaps in our system. This is our third (3<sup>rd</sup>) plan. We are looking at bringing in a consultant to assist with the review and writing of the new Plan. The target date for this is July 22<sup>nd</sup> please be on the lookout for e-mails from me, as they are about getting started with committees and review dates.

**Larriann Torrez Porterville Adult School (PAS)**

A link placed in the chat (Zoom Meeting 8.19.2021), sharing Porterville Adult School's upcoming enrollment dates and classes. Nurse Assistant starts in October, Medical Assistant starts in January. PAS has a new Surgical Tech Program that will start enrollment in January, class starts in the fall of 2022.

**Johnna Schengal College of Sequoias Training Resource Center (TRC)**

A new program offered at the TRC. It is an electrical and Hybrid auto repair. Currently, this is a grant-funded program and is little to no-cost for students interested in this field. Presently, there is one-cohort running and they are scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. A link placed in chat for the next cohort which begins in October 2021.

**Tammy Olsen Visalia Adult School (VS)**

A quick share, Our Vocational Nursing Course that ended in June had 31 of 51 students sit and take their test with a 100% pass rate; some have already been hired. The other 20 have testing dates in September and October.

**7) ECC Meeting Dates – 2021**

November 17, 2021

**8) ADJOURN**