**Youth Council**

**February 18, 2021**

###### SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and was held via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Lacy Barnes, Paul Bauer, Edgar Blunt, Raine Bumatay, Brian Chambers, Katherine Martindale, Michelle Tutunjian, Valerie Vuicich, and Rick Watson

ABSENT – Vasili Sotiropulos and Ricardo Vasquez

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/

DISCLOSURES OF

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF

INTEREST: None

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| COMMITTEE CHAIR/STAFF COMMENTS: | None |

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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| Item | Description/Action Taken |
| 1. | November 19, 2020, Youth Council Meeting Minutes |
|  | Chair Bumatay requested approval of the November 19, 2020, Youth Council (Council) meeting minutes. **VUICICH/MARTINDALE – APPROVED THE NOVEMBER 19, 2020, YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. VOTE: YES – 9, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 2. | **Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board Outstanding Achievement Awards** |
|  | Ana Escareno, Youth Program Coordinator, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), reported that the FRWDB Outstanding Achievement Award for the Third Quarter of Program Year (PY) 2020-2021 had been awarded to Andrew Vue. Ms. Escareno presented the video that highlighted Mr. Vue’s journey to employment through Workforce Connection and noted that he was employed as a Construction Laborer. Chair Bumatay asked what was Mr. Vue’s age and which school district he was from. Joseph Oaxaca, Project Director, Equus Workforce Solutions, a FRWDB Young Adult Program Service Provider, was able to share that Mr. Vue was 24 years old and that he had graduated from Johanna Boss High School in Stockton, California. Ms. Escareno noted that Mr. Vue was justice involved when he obtained his high school diploma.  The video portion of the presentation did not work at the meeting, so Ms. Escareno indicated that she would send a link to the YouTube video to the Youth Council after the meeting.  This was an information item. |
| 3. | **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Young Adult Work Experience Expenditure Report** |
|  | Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB, presented the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Young Adult Work Experience Expenditure Report for the Council’s recommendation to the FRWDB for acceptance. She reported that the PY 2018-2019 and PY 2019-2020 allocations were fully expended by the mandated dates and that the FRWDB was currently working to expend the PY 2020-2021 funds by June 30, 2022. She noted that expenditures were lower than normal by this time in the funding cycle, but that was due to the restrictions of the COVID pandemic, which had affected many employers’ ability to hire Young Adults for Work Experiences (WEXs). She did note that as things start to open up more and more, FRWDB staff hoped to see an increase in the number of WEXs go back to a more normal level.  Director Barnes asked if there was a plan to expend the funds by the June 30, 2022, mandated date. Ms. Stogbauer indicated that the plan was to start identifying more worksites to hire Young Adults for WEXs as businesses begin to open back up. She noted that Young Adults were still being placed in WEXs in the medical and retail fields.  Councilmember Tutunjian asked to hear from some of the FRWDB’s Young Adult Services Providers about their strategies for WEXs, since the numbers are lower than anticipated. Mr. Oaxaca stated that his staff at Equus Workforce Solutions continues to stay in communication with employers who have not able to have interns or WEX participants during the last year due to following COVID guidelines. He noted, however, that they are beginning to see things open up a bit more and their staff goals are increasing to get as many participates out onto the worksites. He added that their participants are very eager and Equus staff was working to get them placed into WEXs.  Patrick Turner with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, shared that EOC had actually been able to place more youth and have moved their obligations up to $88,000 for Out of School Young Adults and have expended $63,000 of their obligations so far.  Ms. Stogbauer reminded the Council that this report is through December 2020, and that there have been additional expenditures that have taken place since then and those numbers would be reflected on the next report. She concluded the report by stating that FRWDB staff will continue to monitor these expenditures closely and will develop strategic plans if it looks like the expenditure rate will not be met as the June 30, 2022, date approaches.  **MARTINDALE/TUTUNJIAN – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE WIOA YOUNG ADULT WORK EXPERIENCE EXPENDITURE REPORT. VOTE: YES – 9, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 4. | **Second Quarter Local Performance Results Report for Program Year 2020-2021** |
|  | Ms. Stogbauer presented for the Council’s recommendation to the FRWDB, the Second Quarter Local Performance Results Report for PY 2020-2021. She indicated that a part of this quarter’s results were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as it was more difficult to recruit Young Adults for enrollment. Relating to the expenditures, she noted that any funding that has not been expended by June 30, 2021, will go into carryover for the next PY. |
|  | Ms. Stogbauer reported that after the Youth Council agenda packet was released, FRWDB staff received information from the State that the data used to create the Measurable Skills Gain report was incorrect. As a result, FRWDB staff removed that report from this item and will correct it once the state issues the corrected data.  **BLUNT/VUICICH – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE SECOND QUARTER LOCAL PERFORMANCE RESULTS REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020-2021, WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE MEASURABLE SKILLS GAIN REPORT. VOTE: YES – 9, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 5. | **Second Quarter Young Adult Satisfaction Report for Program Year 2020-2021** |
|  | Stephen DeWitt, Quality Systems Manager, FRWDB, presented the Second Quarter Young Adult Satisfaction Reports for PY 2020-2021 for the Council’s recommendation to the FRWDB. Mr. DeWitt indicated that the response rate was lower than usual, at 67.5%, but that the responses were very positive, with most results in the “extremely satisfied” category. He noted that this report represents the completion of a six (6)-month pilot where question #3 was changed, and noted that approval of this item would formalize that question change moving forward. Mr. DeWitt noted that he believes that as a result of that change, FRWDB was receiving more accurate responses, as the question was now more relevant to current Program participants.  Councilmember Martindale asked Mr. DeWitt to remind the Council what changed in question #3 of the survey. Mr. DeWitt explained that the wording of the question was originally written during the Workforce Investment Act, where the focus was on younger youth obtaining diplomas and continuing their education. Now, under WIOA, the focus is on older youth and the goal is employment, so the question was updated to reflect that change of program focus.  **BARNES/MARTINDALE – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE SECOND QUARTER YOUNG ADULT SATISFACTION REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020-2021, AND APPROVED THE CHANGE OF QUESTION #3 ON THE SURVEY TOOL. VOTE: YES – 9, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 6. | **Second Quarter Providers of Services’ Monitoring Report for Program Year 2020-2021** |
|  | Mr. DeWitt presented the Second Quarter Providers of Services’ Monitoring Report for PY 2020-2021 for the Council’s recommendation to the FRWDB. Mr. DeWitt reviewed the report with the Council and noted that Central Labor Council – Partnership should not be on the report and indicated that he would correct the report by removing that line item.  **BARNES/VUICICH – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE SECOND QUARTER PROVIDERS OF SERVICES’ MONITORING REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020-2021, AS CORRECTED. VOTE: YES – 9, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 7. | **Second Quarter Providers of Services’ Customer Complaint Report for Program Year 2020-2021** |
|  | Mr. DeWitt presented the Second Quarter Youth Customer Complaint Report for PY 2020-2021 for the Council’s recommendation to the FRWDB. Mr. DeWitt reported that no youth program complaints were received during the second quarter.  **VUICICH/MARTINDALE – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE SECOND QUARTER PROVIDERS OF SERVICES CUSTOMER COMPLAINT REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020-2021. VOTE: YES – 9, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 8. | **Second Quarter Youth Demographics Reports for Program Year 2020-2021** |
|  | Tim Giles, Deputy Director of Information Systems, FRWDB, reviewed the Second Quarter Youth Demographics Reports for PY 2020-2021, with the Council. Director Barnes asked if the high percentage of no responses for Ethnicity on the report were correct. Mr. Giles explained that the federal government reframed the question regarding ethnicity a few years ago where “Hispanic” is not listed as an ethnicity. He noted that there is a separate field for individuals to select if they are of Hispanic origin, but that these responses are not reflected in the Youth Ethnicity chart shown in the Demographics Report.    Blake Konczal, Executive Director, FRWDB, noted that this was not an issue when the FRWDB was allowed to use the iTrain system, prior to being required by the state to use CalJOBS, as under iTrain, the FRWDB could craft the questions to obtain the most accurate answers possible. Ms. Stogbauer reiterated that the FRWDB can see how many individuals indicated they are of Hispanic origin, but that it just does not reflect on this chart.  Mr. Konczal indicated that prior to the next Council meeting, FRWDB staff would make a formal request to the state regarding this issue, and if necessary, would contact local state legislators for their assistance.  Director Montalbano noted that being of Hispanic origin is not an ethnicity, and stated that this could be what is causing some confusion.  This was an information item. |
| 9. | **Agenda Items for May 20, 2021, Meeting** |
|  | There were no items recommended for the May 20, 2021, Youth Council meeting agenda. |
| 10. | **Meeting Feedback** |
|  | Chair Bumatay expressed her appreciation to the Council for their participation and engagement in today’s meeting. |

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.