****

### Workforce Development Board

**September 1, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**MEETING**

###### SUMMARY MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Stephen Avila, Paul Bauer, Edgar Blunt, Alysia Bonner, Raine Bumatay, Brian Chambers, Fely Guzman, Jeff Hensley, Dennis Montalbano, Sherry Neil, Delfino Neira, Joe Olivares, Michael Silveira, Vasili Sotiropulos, Shelly Tarver, and Legal Counsel Ken Price.

ABSENT – Lacy Barnes, Mike Karbassi, Scott Miller, Sal Quintero, Chuck Riojas, and Lydia Zabrycki.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| COMMENTS BY FRWDB CHAIR AND/OR EXECUTIVE STAFF: | None. |
| AGENDA CHANGES:  REMOVAL OF ITEMS OR  EMERGENCY ADDITIONS: | None. |
| ABSTENTIONS/ DISCLOSURES OF  POTENTIAL CONFLICTS  OF INTEREST/RECUSALS: | None. |
| PUBLIC COMMENTS: | None. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Description/Action Taken |
| 6. | COVID-19 Update |
|  | Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), provided an update on current operations and services at Fresno’s America’s Job Centers of California (AJCCs) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She indicated that all offices were now open and providing services to clients in-person and virtually. She stated that all partner staff is also on site, with the exception of Employment Development Department staff, who are still assisting clients virtually. She indicated that in August 2021, there were 917 visits to the Resource Room (compared to 724 in August 2020) and that a majority of those individuals’ visits were to ask questions about their Unemployment Insurance benefits. Ms. Stogbauer reported that new enrollments were low, but that those numbers should go up as the Rapid Response team works with laid off workers from the Internal Revenue Service and Rich’s Foods. Also, the additional Unemployment Insurance payments will be ending in September, so that could also result in an increase in new enrollments at the AJCCs. She noted that the FRWDB is following state, CDC and Cal OSHA reopening guidelines, noting that unvaccinated individuals must still wear a mask while inside the AJCC, and that vaccinated individuals do not have to wear a mask and are allowed to self-attest to their vaccination status. This was an information item. |
| 7. | New Locations Update |
|  | Augie Quiroz, General Services/IT Support Manager, FRWDB, provided an update on the new AJCC and Business Services locations. Mr. Quiroz reminded members that at its special meeting in January 2021, the FRWDB approved a lease for a new AJCC facility at Shaw and Marks. At that time, a timeline was presented that showed the estimated move-in date to be September or October 2021; however, due to some engineering changes to the HVA system and supply chain disruption, the new estimated move-in date has been pushed to the end of February 2022. Director Montalbano asked when the current AJCC lease expires and Mr. Quiroz indicated August 31, 2021, and that the AJCC was now on a month-to-month schedule. Director Montalbano asked if there was a surcharge for the month-to-month and Mr. Quiroz said yes, it is ten percent (10%). Legal Counsel Price noted that this had been contemplated in the lease. Mr. Quiroz also reported that the FRWDB was currently in negotiations for a location for a secondary urban AJCC to serve Dislocated Workers. The building is located at 1445 E. Shaw Avenue and is approximately 21,000 square feet. Blake Konczal, Executive Director, FRWDB, indicated that this is a great location for the Dislocated Workers AJCC and Business Services Center, adding that there is plenty of parking. This was an information item. |
| 8. | New Infrastructure Employment Study |
|  | Mr. Konczal reminded the Board that in 2009, the state funded a sector research project and the FRWDB, along with its sister Workforce Boards in the valley, asked if the research firm would also evaluate public infrastructure construction projects as a separate industry sector. The report covered the period 2010 to 2020, and independent of the High Speed Rail project, over $32 billion of approved public infrastructure construction projects were identified for the valley. As a result, the FRWDB was able to put concerted efforts on union pre-apprentice training, and the FRWDB has been doing that training ever since. This pre-apprentice training has become a model that has been replicated in other Workforce areas. The FRWDB recently contacted the same firm to conduct the same type of research for the years 2021 through 2031. Through this most recent research, $47 billion in public infrastructure construction projects have been identified. FRWDB staff distributed an Executive Summary of the report to the Directors.Mr. Konczal spoke about the importance of knowing what jobs will be available in the valley and then making available training for local residents so that they can be prepared to fill those jobs, thus benefitting the individuals and the community.This was an information item. |
| 9. | Committee Reports |
|  | Executive Committee: Chair Hensley reported that the Executive Committee (Committee) met on July 21st, at which time they reviewed and approved the FRWDB’s One-Stop Operator (OSO) Application. He explained that the AJCC OSO must be selected through a competitive procurement process, but no proposals were received when the FRWDB put this out for procurement. The FRWDB will be submitting its application to the state to act as OSO. The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the Wildfires National Dislocated Worker grant award allocation, as well as the High Roads Construction Careers – California Climate Investment grant award allocation. |
|  | The Committee accepted the May 2021 Financial Report and the May 2021 Agency Budget and Expenditures Report. They also reviewed and recommended that the FRWDB approve the proposed budget and personnel plan for Program Year 2021-2022. He noted that total funding, which included estimated carryover, formula funding from the state, and funding from grants, was almost $34,900,000. Chair Hensley also stated that Mr. Konczal provided a brief overview of the projects he had focused on over the past quarter at the Executive Committee meeting.  Mr. Konczal stated that currently, the FRWDB was working through two (2) earmark requests for the budget revisions at the state level. One, through Assembly member Arambula’s office, deals with the construction training program and would add a small monetary stipend while trainees are in their initial six (6) weeks of training, but also would create an eight (8) week paid Work Experience at the end of the training. The second request, through Senator Caballero’s office, would expand the forestry training that the FRWDB is currently doing at Reedley College to the Oakhurst campus of Madera Community College and to Columbia College in Sonora. He noted that until an adequate supply of human capital is ready to take the contracts through private businesses to do the work, all the money being put out will not make a difference. He added that on July 21, 2021, the new CEO of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) announced that PG&E will be putting a plan before the Public Utilities Commission to bury 10,000 miles of power lines in the state of California at an initial cost of somewhere between $15 and $30 billion over the next six (6) years. Mr. Konczal stated that the FRWDB will be asking PG&E to consider adopting a Targeted National Hiring Policy, similar to what the High-Speed Rail Authority adopted, so that local trained workers could have an opportunity to be hired for some percentage of those jobs.  Director Montalbano asked what was being done with the trees that are being cut down in the forests and was there any income from those felled trees. Mr. Konczal stated that there are several factors that determine whether a felled tree had value, or if it had become so dry that is was value-less.  Mr. Konczal again stated the need to have Californians trained and licensed to meet the need for qualified workers to cut down the trees. Chair Hensley asked if the FRWDB would have a role in helping with this effort, and Mr. Konczal indicated that once there is an actual Senate Bill number from the state, the FRWDB will be involved in approaching elected officials about this.  Director Silveira asked if there was any estimates or projections on new jobs or the number of workers that will be needed for these projects. Mr. Konczal indicated that that specific information was not available. Director Silveira also asked if the FRWDB provides information about these types of jobs and training to schools. Mr. Konczal indicated that the FRWDB had taken different approaches to outreaching to schools in the past, but has been more successful working with Community Based Organizations and the FRWDB’s Youth providers to get this type of information to young adults. Mr. Konczal indicated that he would be available to discuss this further with Director Silveira.  This was an information item. |
| 10. | Approval of the June 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes |
|  | **BONNER/BAUER – APPROVED THE JUNE 2, 2021, MEETING MINUTES. VOTE: YES – 11; NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 11. | July 2021 Financial Report |
|  | Mr. Konczal presented the July 2021, Financial Report for the FRWDB’s acceptance. He indicated that the report reflects information pertaining to the grants the FRWDB had received, including some modifications and minor increases to a couple of the grants. FRWDB staff had no concerns with the report and the Directors had no questions.  **OLIVARES/BLUNT – ACCEPTED THE JULY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT. VOTE: YES – 12; NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 12. | Consent Item (A1) |
|  | **OLIVARES/SILVEIRA – APPROVED CONSENT ITEM A1. VOTE: YES – 12; NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 13. | Second Quarter Community Events |
|  | Mr. Konczal stated that there were no community events to report for the second quarter of Program Year 2021-2022. This was an information item. |
| 14. | Information Sharing |
|  | There was no information shared. |
| 15. | Agenda Items for December 1, 2021, Meeting |
|  | There were no items recommended for the December 1, 2021, FRWDB meeting agenda. |
| 16. | Meeting Feedback |
|  | No meeting feedback was provided. |

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.