

**Business and Industry Committee**

**August 5, 2020**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT - Fely Guzman, Tommy Nellon, Joe Olivares, Corinna Pereira, Michael Silveira (4:09 p.m.), and Lydia Zabrycki

ABSENT - Richard Keyes and Scott Miller

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/

DISCLOSURES OF

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF

INTEREST: None

STAFF/CHAIR COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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| **Item** | **Description/Action Taken** |
| **1.** | **May 6, 2020, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes** |
|  | Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), presented the May 6, 2020, meeting minutes for correction and/or approval. |
|  | **GUZMAN/OLIVARES – APPROVED THE MAY 6, 2020, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **2.** | **Business Services Center Usage Report for Program Year 2019 - 2020** |
|  | Director Michael Silveira arrived at 4:09 p.m.  Erik Cherkaski, Business Services Manager, FRWDB, provided an overview of activities and services being provided through the FRWDB’s Business Services Center (BSC) and referred the Committee to a spreadsheet provided in the agenda packet, which reported an approximate value for services provided in Program Year (PY) 2019-2020.  Mr. Cherkaski also went over the other services that the BSC provides, including the revamped no-cost Human Resources (HR) Hotline. He also provided an overview of the changes that have taken place at the BSC since the closing of the office on March 19, 2020, due to COVID-19, including the ramp up of the Rapid Response webinars and the many virtual meetings.  Mr. Cherkaski concluded his report by informing the Committee that the BSC is still closed to the public and will remain closed for the foreseeable future, but that they will continue to host virtual events.  This was an information item. |
| **3.** | **Rapid Response – COVID-19 Assistance** |
|  | Martha Espinosa,Business Services/Rapid Response Coordinator, FRWDB, reported on Rapid Response services provided in the Fourth Quarter of PY 2019-2020. During the Fourth Quarter and with the COVID shutdown, the Rapid Response Team contacted 133 companies that were either downsizing or closing, and hosted 21 orientations in which 357 employees attended. Due to COVID-19 closures, the Rapid Response Team ramped up and offered a series of webinars for employees and employers each week.  Ms. Espinosa explained that Phase 2 of the Governor’s Re-Opening Plan started the first week of May and this allowed a few businesses to bring back their entire staff; however, some businesses struggled to bring back employees due to no childcare, the additional $600 in Unemployment Insurance benefits per week, and fear of being infected. The FRWDB Rapid Response team responded with a Virtual Job Fair Series, in partnership with the City of Fresno. The Job Fair Series was hosted over three (3) days, May 27 - May 29, 2020. There were approximately five to six (5 to 6) employers each day and overall a total of 124 job seekers attended. This was the first virtual job fair in the Fresno area.  In Layoff Aversion efforts, the Rapid Response team managed to assist seven (7) different businesses avert the permanent layoff of 369 employees  This was an information item. |
| **4.** | **Manufacturing Recruitment and Upskill Taining** |
|  | Shawna Glazener, Business Services Coordinator, FRWDB, presented a report on the current trends in manufacturing, pre and post pandemic. She provided examples of all the work the BSC had done to help local manufacturers, including how the FRWDB’s partnership with California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC) has helped our local manufacturers stay, grow, and thrive in Fresno County.  Ms. Glazener presented Project Phoenix, the Trillium Pumps USA and Wier Floway merger as a prime example of how the FRWDB and several partners are working to meet their needs, with the FRWDB leading the recruitment efforts. The positions are being marketed through the One-Stops, radio and television advertising, and through education partners. Candidates are referred through Workforce Connection, and also as they are identified through Rapid Response activities.  Ms. Glazener reported that six (6) Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) contracts were completed during the 2019-2020 PY, with three (3) being in partnership with CMTC. It was anticipated that seven (7) additional contracts would be completed when the pandemic hit, which caused some delay while manufacturers regrouped and retooled. At this time, one (1) has been approved in July, and four (4) more were in the process for completion in August.  Ms. Glazener introduced Mr. Craig Scharton with CMTC, who gave a recap of his company and their partnership with the BSC.  Mr. Scharton stated that during the initial stages of the pandemic, he saw that the FRWDB was a leader not just in promoting local Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), but also by following through by purchasing masks from a local company, Snowflake Designs.  This was an information item. |
| **5.** | **Rural Business Outreach** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski provided the rural business outreach update, and referred to Business Services Coordinators Veronica McAlister and Juan Carranza, who are servicing the East and West sides of Fresno County, respectively.  Mr. Cherkaski reported that on the East side of Fresno County, Ms. McAlister (in addition to providing COVID response to businesses in Parlier, Kingsburg, Fowler, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and Orange Cove) has been instrumental with the Forestry Service Training with Reedley College and the Conservation Corp. An Auberry employer has hired three (3) individuals after the completion of their training.  In the last couple months, Mr. Carranza hosted a community webinar with West Hills Community College District for Rapid Response and has led a couple in Spanish. He has also started a marketing campaign on the local news and radio stations. His business support has been focused in Kerman, San Joaquin, Coalinga and Firebaugh.  This was an information item. |
| **6.** | **Quarterly Business Award Videos** |
|  | Due to technical difficulties Mr. Cherkaski was not able to present the two (2) videos that revealed the Outstanding Business Achievement Award for the First Quarter of 2020: Stanislaus Food Supply for the Adult Employer and Fresno Family Chiropractic for the Youth Employer.  The employers were not able to attend the meeting today, but Stanislaus Food Supply sent a letter of acceptance and appreciation that Mr. Cherkaski read for the Business and Industry Committee (B&I).  This was an information item. |
| **7.** | **November 4, 2020, Agenda Items** |
|  | Chair Zabrycki reminded the B&I that if they have any items to be added to the agenda for the November 4, 2020, meeting, to send those items to FRWDB staff at least two (2) weeks before the meeting. |
| **8.** | **Meeting Feedback** |
|  | Chair Zabrycki and FRWDB Executive Director, Blake Konczal, discussed how far the FRWDB has come since its first tele-conference meeting to today’s virtual meeting.  Director Silveira asked about any sources the FRWDB might be able to compile for working parents having to home school their at-home children. Chair Zabrycki asked if Mr. Konczal and his team could put together some resources for parents. Mr. Konczal said staff would research it and get back to the committee. |

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.