

### Business and Industry Committee

### February 5, 2020

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT - Lydia Zabrycki, Richard Keyes (arrived at 4:05 p.m.), Scott Miller, Tommy Nellon, Joe Olivares, Corinna Pereira and Michael Silveira

ABSENT - Fely Guzman and Ron Hicks

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/

DISCLOSURES OF

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF

INTEREST: None

STAFF/CHAIR COMMENTS: Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), explained that there will be a public press conference Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 10 o’clock at the old Guarantee Building. It will be announced that the partnership with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC), the local Conservation Corps, and Reedley College’s Forestry Program have received a $1.675 million dollar grant from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to train workers to cut down dead trees in the Sierras.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Director Keys arrived (4:05pm)

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| **Item** | **Description/Action Taken** |
| **1.** | **August 7, 2019, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes** |
|  | Mr. Konczal presented the August 7, 2019, meeting minutes for correction and/or approval. |
|  | **OLIVARES/** **SILVEIRA – APPROVED THE AUGUST 7, 2019, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **2.** | **Rural Business Outreach** |
|  | Erik Cherkaski, Business Services Manager, FRWDB, introduced newly hired Business Services Coordinators Veronica McAlister and Juan Carranza who will service the East and West sides of Fresno County. They both then explained what they have been doing to get to know the needs of their communities and how they have been reaching out to the businesses in these rural areas.  This was an information item. |
| **3.** | **Westside Works** |
|  | Director Corinna Pereira, Workplace Learning Liaison, West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Westside Works Initiative, which is a multi-employer program with several individual food processing plants. Staff at the food processing plants have developed their own apprenticeship programs and Ms. Pereira and WHCCD are submitting those for state approval.  WHCCD was awarded two (2) California Agricultural and Industrial grants last year by the Chancellor’s office: one (1) for child development and the other for industrial technologies. They have had a difficult time filling their classes, but have received funds for 50 apprentices thru 2022 in these two (2) areas.  Additional multi-employer programs WHCCD is working on are the Fresno EOC Head Start Teacher Assistant and the Home-Based Educator apprenticeships.  This was an information item. |
| **4.** | **October 29, 2019, Training Forum Recap** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski introduced Edgar Blunt, the CEO of IMAGO, who was the keynote speaker at the FRWDB’s second Training Forum on October 29, 2019. Mr. Cherkaski explained that at the first Training Forum, FRWDB staff asked 200 industry representatives in attendance what they thought the skills gap issues were in Fresno county. Those skills gap issues were then discussed at a more in-depth level at the second Training Forum.  Mr. Blunt presented a short video of the event and then discussed the importance of emotional intelligence as it relates to the future of the workforce. Mr. Konczal noted that emotional intelligence is what has also been referred to as “soft skills”.  Mr. Blunt explained how he presents the need for this type of training to employers where they eventually realize that there are newer types of competencies that need to be addressed in the workforce.  Nuvia Varela, Adult and Youth Program Manager, FRWDB, provided an overview of the Job Readiness Workshops where facilitators lead individuals in discussions about their real-life experiences to help grow from those experiences.  Director Keyes stated that these Job Readiness Workshops seem to be really helpful for retention of current employees and asked if the curriculum addresses the unemployed also. Ms. Varela indicated that the curriculum and topics do work to train unemployed individuals.  Council member Pereira indicated that she would love to see this program written into curriculum and given for college credit.  This was an information item. |
| 5. | **Rapid Response – Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act Notice** |
|  | Martha Espinosa,Business Services/Rapid Response Coordinator, FRWDB, reported on the first and second quarter of Program Year 2019-2020. During the first quarter, the Rapid Response team contacted nine (9) companies that were either downsizing or closing, and hosted four (4) orientations in which 29 employees attended. During the second quarter, the Rapid Response team contacted 11 companies that were either downsizing or closing, and hosted three (3) orientations in which seven (7) employees attended. |
|  | Ms. Espinosa reported that the Fresno County Library Digibus continues to be an asset for Rapid Response orientations.  In Layoff Aversion efforts, Shawna Glazener, Business Services Coordinator, FRWDB, partnered with California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC) to avert the layoff of 105 employees at four (4) different businesses.  This was an information item. |
| 6. | **Business / Job Seeker Recognition Quarterly Awards Adult / Youth** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski presented two (2) videos that revealed the Outstanding Business Achievement Award for the Third Quarter of PY 2018-2019: KMY Prosthetics & Orthotics for the Adult Employer and Renewal Auto Body & Paint for the Youth Employer.  The awards recipients were not in attendance for the committee to talk with today, but they are in the running for the Annual Award, which will be presented at the FRWDB’s Workforce Achievements & Excellence Awards Banquet on March 11, 2020.  This was an information item. |
| 7. | **May 6, 2020, Agenda Items** |
|  | Chairwoman Lydia Zabrycki reminded the B&I that if they have any items to be added to the agenda for the May 6, 2020, meeting, to send their items to FRWDB staff at least two (2) weeks before the meeting. |
| 8. | Meeting Feedback |
|  | None. |

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.