

### Business and Industry Committee

### February 6, 2019

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT - Lee Ann Eager, Ron Hicks, Richard Keyes, Scott Miller, Joe Olivares, and Lydia Zabrycki

ABSENT - Fely Guzman, Tommy Nellon, and Corinna Pereira

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), reported that the FRWDB held its first Workforce Training Forum at TorNino’s on the morning of February 6, 2019. There were two (2) special speakers. The first speaker was Brenda Budke, Executive Director, Sierra HR Partners, Inc. Ms. Budke presented studies on how US executives see the skills gap affecting the American workforce. The second speaker was Chris Pitts, Talent Supply Solutions Leader, Amazon Fulfillment Center. Mr. Pitts presented on the challenges of overcoming skills gaps. After the presentations, group discussions were held and feedback was provided. One of the main issues expressed from various businesses and education partners were employees that lack soft skills. Mr. Konczal stated that the feedback collected will be aggregated so FRWDB staff can identify if there is available local training to meet the needs of the community, and if not, determine how to address it.

Director Olivares commented that the event was strongly attended and he appreciated the discussion groups.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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| **Item** | **Description/Action Taken** |
| **1.** | **May 2, 2018, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes** |
|  | Mr. Konczal presented the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes for correction and/or approval. |
|  | **OLIVARES/EAGER – APPROVED THE MAY 2, 2018, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **2.** | **November 7, 2018, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes** |
|  | Mr. Konczal presented the November 7, 2018, meeting minutes for correction and/or approval. |
|  | **EAGER/KEYES – APPROVED THE November 7, 2018, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **3.** | **Fresno Area Labor Analysis Report** |
|  | Erik Cherkaski, Business Services Manager, FRWDB, presented the Fresno Area Labor Analysis Report. Mr. Cherkaski explained that the data in the report was provided by the Employment Development Department in December 2018. The report focused on a comparison between Fresno County and California unemployment rates. Fresno County is at a slightly lower rate when compared from 2018 to 2017. The report also ranked the six (6) counties that were in the bottom twelve for worst unemployment in the central San Joaquin Valley. These counties were: Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern.    Mr. Cherkaski added that the Industry Employment section of the report showed that the total industry employment had increased by 8600 jobs from December 2017 to December 2018. Mr. Konczal added that construction and local government, two (2) leading employment sectors, had significant increases in jobs.  Mr. Cherkaski concluded that the unemployment information in the report will be useful to determine how businesses in Fresno county can best be served. |
| **4.** | **Employer Customer Satisfaction Report** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski presented for the B&I’s recommendation to the FRWDB, the Customer Satisfaction Report for the Fourth Quarter of Program Year (PY) 2017-2018.  Mr. Cherkaski explained that the report reflected employer business customer satisfaction, and that the FRWDB continues to be rated extremely high with a 4.8 out of 5 rating from employer customers.  Mr. Cherkaski added that a new employer survey is being developed as a result of revised metrics provided by the State of California. Once the report is updated, FRWDB staff will start bringing it to the Business and Industry Committee meetings. |
|  | **OLIVARES/EAGER – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE EMPLOYER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION REPORT (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **5.** | **Business / Job Seeker Recognition Quarterly Awards** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski presented two (2) short videos that revealed the Outstanding Business Achievement for the Third Quarter of PY 2017-2018 had been awarded to GRID Alternatives (Adult Employer), and Kool Breeze Solar Hats (Youth Employer).  Michael Brooks, Talent Management Specialist, Workforce Connection, nominated GRID Alternatives because they offer job training assistance for individuals interested in finding entry into the solar industry. Grid Alternatives is committed to investing in their employees and has already hired five (5) participates over the past few years.  Tamar Fagin, Business Account Specialist, All Youth One System, nominated Kool Breeze Solar Hats for their commitment to providing hands on learning opportunities to young adults interested in careers in the manufacturing industry.  Director Zabrycki thanked FRWDB staff for a great job on the videos, and commented that FRWDB Director Nellon was in the second video as he is an owner of Kool Breeze Solar Hats. |
| 6. | **Rapid Response – Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act Notice** |
|  | Martha Espinosa,Business Services/Rapid Response Coordinator, FRWDB, reported that during the second quarter of PY 2018-2019, the Rapid Response team contacted nineteen companies that were either downsizing or closing, and provided information to 243 dislocated workers out of the 684 employees that were affected.  Ms. Espinosa focused on one of the large scale closures which was Zacky Farms with 448 employees impacted in the Fresno area. The Rapid Response Team was able to hold two (2) rapid employment events called “Meet the Employer” to assist individuals in becoming rapidly reemployed. Ms. Espinosa explained that the most effective way to reemploy displaced workers was to have select employers on site at the events to provide on the spot interviews, or take paper applications. Some of the employers who attended the events were OK Produce, Harris Ranch, Foster Farms, Del Monte Foods, The Wonderful Company, Department of Rehabilitation and Cargill Protein.  Ms. Espinosa commented that the events were well attended and she felt that overall the Rapid Response Team was able to reach a large population of employees that were impacted by the closure. |
| 7. | **May 01, 2019, Agenda Items** |
|  | Director Zabrycki reminded the Business and Industry Committee that if they have any items to be added to the agenda for the May 1, 2019, meeting, to send their items to FRWDB staff at least two (2) weeks before the meeting. |
| 8. | Meeting Feedback |
|  | There was no meeting feedback. |

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.