

**Business and Industry Committee**

**May 5, 2021**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT - Fely Guzman, Sherry Neil, Joe Olivares, Michael Silveira, and Lydia Zabrycki

ABSENT - Tommy Nellon 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.** | **February 3, 2021, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes** |
|  | Erik Cherkaski, Business Services Manager, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) presented the February 3, 2021, meeting minutes for correction and/or approval. |
|  | **SILVEIRA /OLIVARES – APPROVED THE FEBRUARY 3, 2021, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **2.** | **Rapid Response – Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act Notice** |
|  | Martha Espinosa, Marketing and Special Projects Manager, FRWDB, reported on Rapid Response services provided in the Third Quarter of Program Year (PY) 2020-2021. She shared the Fresno county’s unemployment rate information from the Labor Market Report, which showed a 1.5% increase in unemployment in March 2021, compared to March 2020.  During the Third Quarter, the Rapid Response team contacted companies that were either downsizing or closing, and provided an Orientation to 49 dislocated workers and business owners. There were 1,985 employees affected during this quarter.  The FRWDB Rapid Response team, to date, has hosted 46 Orientations since the start of the pandemic, with 759 individuals in attendance. Since January 2021, there were three (3) permanent store closures with 98 individuals impacted.  The team is still working with the Internal Revenue Service, Butler Ave location closure, with the first wave of layoffs in June impacting 853 employees and the second in September impacting 855 employees. In June there will be more details on Fresno Economic Opportunity Commission’s layoff within their Childcare Program impacting anywhere from 112 to 581 employees.  The results from the Spring Virtual Job Fair sponsored by the Rapid Response team in partnership with the City of Fresno was a huge success with 43 employers participating. The event attracted 182 attendees and resulted in 424 resumes being submitted. |
|  | This was an information item. |
| **3.** | **Manufacturing Upskill Training** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski and Craig Scharton, Client Advisor, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC) discussed their office’s collaborative efforts in offering upskill training programs to local manufacturers. Particular focus was placed on the demand for computer aided design (CAD) and SOLDIWORKS training.  Mr. Sharton brought up the business-friendly nature of the FRWDB, and the benefits of the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program. He provided an example of how the IWT Program propelled a local manufacturer to design a new piece of firefighting equipment that is projecting $40,000 in additional sales per month. The training has led several companies to design products more quickly and inexpensively because they can now do it in house, while increasing employees’ skillsets and career advancement opportunities. Also, the training was provided by a local company, Valley CAD, located in Reedley.  This was an information item. |
| **4.** | **Rural Business Outreach** |
|  | Veronica McAlister, Business Services Coordinator, FRWDB, shared that the second cohort of the Central Valley Forestry Corps training program completed training with 16 participants receiving job offers. Currently, the third cohort is underway and one (1) participant is from the area affected by the Creek Fire and was inspired to join the training program after his family lost their home.  Ms. McAlister also shared that the FRWDB just received funding for the National Dislocated Worker Grant for the Creek Fire. These funds will allow the FRWDB to recruit 75 individuals to temporary jobs for the next 18 months to continue the Creek Fire clean up.  Juan Carranza, Business Services Coordinator, FRWDB, shared that he continues to serve the West side of Fresno County. He discussed his efforts to strengthen the FRWDB’s rural presence and awareness of services. Mr. Carranza has been working closely with the U. S. Small Business Administration in outreach efforts for their Restaurant Revitalization Fund for small businesses. He also discussed continued collaborative efforts with rural coalition groups, such as the Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC) Entrepreneur Program for Immigrant Business Owners and Alianza Del Valle, in targeting Spanish speaking businesses through Facebook Live events. Mr. Carranza ended his presentation with discussing a new business grant program he is working on with the City of Firebaugh.  This was an information item. |
| **5.** | **Fourth Quarter Awards Business Recognition** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski presented a video that revealed the Outstanding Business Achievement Award winners for the Fourth Quarter of 2020: Dycora Transitional Health for the adult employer and Borga Steel in Fowler for the youth employer.  Director Olivares and Chair Zabrycki discussed with staff their desire to see these videos broadcast on the local news channels and during the State of the County address.  This was an information item. |
| **6.** | **Agenda Items for August 4, 2021, Meeting** |
|  | Chair Zabrycki reminded the Committee that if they have any items to be added to the agenda for the August 4, 2021, meeting, to send those items to FRWDB staff at least two (2) weeks before the meeting. |
| **7.** | **Meeting Feedback** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski asked the Committee if they had any suggestions on how these meetings might be improved. The Committee provided no feedback. |

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