**Youth Council**

**November 16, 2023**

###### SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. There was no quorum established for this meeting.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Natalie Dodson, Katherine Martindale (arrived at 4:10 p.m.), Vasili Sotiropulos, and Michelle Tutunjian

ABSENT – Alysia Bonner, Terry Metters, Jr., Ricardo Vasquez, and Rick Watson

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/ None

DISCLOSURES OF

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF

INTEREST: None

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| COUNCIL CHAIR/STAFF COMMENTS: | Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), stated that due to there not being a quorum for this meeting, only information items would be discussed. |

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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| Item | Description/Action Taken |
| 3. | Youth Provider Spotlight - EquusJoseph Oaxaca, ACA Supervisor, Equus Workforce Solutions (Equus), presented the Youth Council (Council) with a slide presentation spotlighting the programs Equus provided as a service contractor for the FRWDB. He reported that Equus oversees four (4) Young Adult programs for the FRWDB: Urban West Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act services, the Fatherhood program, the Young Offender program, and the City of Fresno’s Youth Job Corps program. He also shared about some of the programs Equus administers nationally, such as a podcast called “Workforce in Action”; a housing, emergency, disaster and homeless prevention program called “Equitable Social Solutions”; and a Department of Labor-sponsored Workforce Development Registered Apprenticeship program. He shared that Equus serves about 900,000 jobseekers annually.Mr. Konczal informed the Council that there would be a different Provider Spotlight at every meeting in 2024. This was an information item. |
| 4. | **Youth Participant Success Stories**  Martha Espinosa, Marketing and Grants Manager, FRWDB, presented two (2) videos. The first video highlighted David Flores Sanchez, Second Quarter Youth Achievement Award winner for Program Year (PY) 2023-2024. The second video highlighted United Market located in Selma, Second Quarter Youth Business of Excellence Award Winner for PY 2023-2024.  Council Member Dodson asked Ms. Espinosa what recruitment strategies were in place to get participants into programs that the FRWDB offers. Ms. Espinosa replied that several strategies were in place, such as outreach events with different high schools, social media advertisements and radio broadcast advertisements. She also announced that FRWDB planned to include billboards in Fresno, Kerman, Parlier, Sanger and Firebaugh to advertise the ValleyBuild program. Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB, stated that youth providers and their staff also work with Ms. Espinosa by participating in community events. Ms. Espinosa stated that FRWDB staff were also involved in visiting some of Fresno County’s rural cities’ City Councils to ensure they were aware of the services offered through Workforce Connection. Ms. Espinosa noted that there was a staff marketing calendar that keeps everyone informed about outreach events.  Ms. Dodson asked if the FRWDB had worked with Valley ROP. Mr. Konczal stated that the FRWDB has worked with Valley ROP and that they were a very important partner.  This was an information item. |
| 6. | **Youth Demographics Reports**  Ms. Stogbauer reviewed the Fourth Quarter Youth Demographics Reports for PY 2022-2023, and the First Quarter Youth Demographics Reports for PY 2023-2024. She informed the Council that all youth demographics were collected at the time of initial enrollment. Ms. Stogbauer also indicated that since the end of the pandemic, enrollments had increased steadily. Concerning ethnicity, Ms. Stogbauer reported that out of 1,236 participants enrolled, 829 of them were of Hispanic origin. She pointed out that the other demographics in the report showed very little change between the prior and current PYs. Other demographics in the report included participants’ gender, age, education levels, barriers, and public assistance.  This was an information item. |
| 7. | **Agenda Items for February 15, 2024, Meeting**  There were no items suggested for the February 15, 2024, Youth Council Meeting. |
| 8. | **Meeting Feedback**  Regarding the Local Performance Results Report, Council Member Martindale expressed that she would like to keep conversations concerning the rural west region’s performance in the forefront. |

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.