



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Skills Development Council
August 7, 2024

SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Douglas Dart, Jeff Hensley, Alisha Morgan, Joe Olivares, Sandra Vicente (arrived at 4:03 p.m.), and Chris Zeitz

ABSENT – Stephen Avila, Scott Miller, and Lydia Zabrycki

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/
DISCLOSURES OF
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST: None

COUNCIL CHAIR/ STAFF COMMENTS: Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), shared that Director Hensley would chair the meeting in Director Zabrycki's absence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Item	Description/Action Taken
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1. **May 1, 2024, Skills Development Council Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Konczal presented the May 1, 2024, Skills Development Council (Council) meeting minutes for the Council's approval, or correction and approval.

DART/MORGAN – APPROVED THE MAY 1, 2024, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)

2. **Individual Training Account Overview**

Tim Giles, Deputy Director Information and General Services, FRWDB, gave the Council an overview of the FRWDB's cumulative participant training activities and expenditures through the Fourth Quarter of Program Year (PY) 2023-2024. Mr. Giles reviewed the industries in which participants were trained, the total number of individuals enrolled, how many participants completed these training programs, and how many were still actively training.

Director Olivares asked for a description of a few of the industries listed, why some of the industries had a total expenditure of \$0.00, and what the status was with training at Clovis Community College. Mr. Giles informed Director Olivares that the industries with a total expenditure of \$0.00 were former Bitwise participants who received waivers to attend special training, and that the FRWDB did not have much activity with Clovis Community College due to programs needing approval for the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL).

Director Hensley asked if the FRWDB saw any trend changes in the kind of training participants were asking for. Mr. Giles stated that he had not.

This was an information item.

3. **Special Grants Training Overview**

Ashley Matthews, Senior Special Projects Manager, FRWDB, shared a PowerPoint that included an overview of the special grants training activities. These activities included Mayor Dyer's visit to a ValleyBuild class, the ValleyBuild Career Fair with Kern County, ValleyBuild and ValleyBuild NOW's Graduation, and the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps Graduation. Ms. Matthews spoke about the ValleyBuild Apprenticeship Readiness Program, the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps, and the multiple grants that fund these projects. She also spoke about the good partnerships the FRWDB had with the training providers on these projects.

Ms. Matthews stated that the unions recognized the ValleyBuild program as being a reliable place to find good apprentices due to the program's preparation practices. She explained that these practices included making sure participants understood job site requirements, maintained close connections with participants, and provision of resources available for additional testing and training.

Director Vicente asked if the preparation practices would be shared with future groups for similar success. Ms. Mathews replied that they would.

This was an information item.

4. **Discretionary Grants Report**

Ka Xiong, Program Manager, FRWDB, presented an overview of the discretionary grant funding for the Council's review. Ms. Xiong discussed the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Grant, the Fresno Fatherhood Grant, the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP) Grant, the Student Training and Employment Program 2.0 (STEP 2.0) Grant, the Prison to Employment (P2E) Grant, and the English Language Learner Integrated Education and Training (ELL IET) Grant. In her overview, Ms. Xiong stated each grant's purpose, target population, and period of performance. Ms. Xiong asked members of the Fatherhood Program to speak.

Yvette Rodriguez, Project Coordinator, FRWDB, introduced the members of the Fatherhood program. These members included Nathaniel Brown, Workshop Facilitator; LaMonica Hall, Case Manager; Verence Salah, Case Manager; and Rodney Casillas, Operations Supervisor. Ms. Rodriguez shared with the Council about the Fatherhood Program: its focus, who the program serves, and the program's future vision. Mr. Brown provided the Council with information about the Fatherhood Program's curriculum.

Director Vicente asked what metrics were used to measure the program's success. Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB, replied that pre and post surveys were given, and financial workshops were also provided. Director Vicente expressed an interest in partnering with the FRWDB to provide financial literacy workshops.

A short video was presented of testimonials from Fatherhood Program participants.

This was an information item.

5. **Overview of Staff Trainings**

Jose Espinoza, Training Manager, FRWDB, presented an overview of staff trainings scheduled for the Fourth Quarter of Program Year 2023-2024. Mr. Espinoza updated the Council on the Conversational Spanish classes, the staff trainings that had already occurred, and the staff trainings that were scheduled for the future, including the all-staff conference on October 22, 2024.

This was an information item.

6. **Information Sharing**

Director Vicente shared that she recently started employment with the Bank of Montreal (BMO) where she took on a new market that sent her to St. Louis for training. She stated that BMO was able to connect with a Workforce Board in Missouri to provide literacy training to over 100 students. She congratulated the FRWDB for their efforts.

7. **August 7, 2024, Agenda Items**

Mr. Konczal stated that based on discussions with contractor staff, translation technology for front desk staff would be an interesting topic for a future meeting.

9. **Meeting Feedback**

Mr. Konczal shared a thank you card sent by a Scholarship Panel award recipient.

Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.