



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Youth Council
November 21, 2024

SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Shayn Anderson, Alysia Bonner, Natalie Dodson (arrived at 4:14 p.m.), Michelle Engel-Silva, Kurt Madden, Katherine Martindale, and Vasili Sotiropulos

ABSENT – Keda Buttles, Terry Metters, Jr., Michelle Tutunjian, and Rick Watson

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/
DISCLOSURES OF
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST:

Director Anderson – Item 5; Director Bonner – Item 6C

COUNCIL CHAIR/STAFF
COMMENTS:

Chair Sotiropulos welcomed new Youth Council members: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) Director Shayn Anderson, Keda Buttles, FRWDB Director Kurt Madden, and Michelle Engel-Silva.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Item	Description/Action Taken
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1. **May 23, 2024, Youth Council Meeting Minutes**

Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), presented the May 23, 2024, meeting minutes for the Youth Council's (Council's) approval, or correction and approval.

BONNER/ANDERSON – APPROVED THE MAY 23, 2024, YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)

2. **Youth Provider Spotlight – America Works**

Mr. Konczal introduced Nuvia Varela, Program Manager, America Works, who introduced America Works' Young Adult Services team: Alejandra Gonzalez, Youth Program Manager; Anai Martinez, Career Advisor; Iselda Segura, Career Advisor and Skills Trainer; and Carlos Pacheco, Career Advisor.

Ms. Gonzalez shared a PowerPoint presentation, providing a brief overview of America Works' history and leadership, its employment network and locations across the country, and the programs they offer.

The presentation then went into more detail about America Works' Young Adult Services in Fresno County, with each of the team members sharing.

Council Member Dodson arrived (4:14 p.m.)

The presentation included information about the Young Adult Services program, such as the number of enrollments from the rural areas and outreach efforts, and a success story of one of their Young Adult program participants.

Director Bonner asked if America Works included the County's Boys and Girls Clubs in their outreach efforts. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that they do. Council Member Dodson suggested America Works reach out to the California Teaching Fellows Foundation about the community events they conduct in the rural areas to help with recruiting efforts. Council Member Martindale mentioned that the Neighborhood Resource Center in Kerman and the West Side Family Preservation Services in Huron and Coalinga would also be good organizations to work with on outreach. Director Madden asked what other types of recruitment was being done other than distributing flyers. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that besides flyers being provided to parents, they use social media, including Instagram Lives, to get information out about their programs and services. Martha Espinosa, Deputy Director of Grants, Marketing and Business Initiatives, FRWDB, noted that FRWDB also utilized Geofencing, billboards, job fairs, and social media to help share information about training and services available in the rural areas. Mr. Pacheco added that the America Works team also work with counselors from the different schools to get information to high school seniors who are looking for resources. Council Member Dodson then suggested working with the Career Technical Education programs and the athletic coaches at the high schools as additional ways to outreach to students.

Director Sotiropulos thanked the America Works team for their presentation.

This was an information item.

3. Youth Program Success Stories

Ms. Espinosa presented a video highlighting the Youth Business of Excellence Award winner, North Point Healthcare and Wellness Center, who have provided nine (9) FRWDB young adult participants with Work Experience opportunities. These Work Experience opportunities provided the participants with hands-on experience to learn practical skills and gain industry specific knowledge. North Point Healthcare and Wellness Center hired one (1) of the participants, Jae Garcia, who was featured in the video.

This was an information item.

4. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Carryover Funding Recommendations for Program Year 2024-2025

Ka Xiong, Program Manager, FRWDB, presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB approval, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Carryover funding recommendations for Program Year (PY) 2024-2025. She reminded the Council that in May, the FRWDB received WIOA formula funding estimates from the state and the Council made its funding recommendations based on those state estimates. Then, on June 6, 2024, the state released the final formula funding allocations, which was slightly higher than the estimated amounts by \$3,526. FRWDB staff revised funding allocation recommendations for PY 2024-2025 and they were included in the agenda item.

BONNER/MARTINDALE – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB APPROVE THE WIOA YOUTH CARRYOVER FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PY 2024-2025. (UNANIMOUS)

5. **Student Training and Employment Program Contract Awards**

Ms. Xiong presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB approval, the Student Training and Employment Program (STEP) contract award allocations in the amount of \$745,001.80 for the second-year funding period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Ms. Xiong explained that the STEP program fosters strong partnerships with key stakeholders who support students with disabilities. The proposed funding allocation was outlined in the agenda item and the Council had no questions for FRWDB staff.

MADDEN/BONNER – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB APPROVE THE STEP CONTRACT AWARDS. (UNANIMOUS, WITH RECUSAL NOTED ABOVE)

6. **Consent Items 6A – 6D**

Director Madden pulled items 6B and 6C from Consent for discussion.

BONNER/MADDEN – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT CONSENT ITEMS 6A AND 6D. (UNANIMOUS)

Item 6B – Youth Satisfaction Report

Director Madden commented that it was great that the FRWDB conducted customer satisfaction surveys but noticed that question #3 of the survey “Did the assessments/tests help you identify your career or education interests?” received lower satisfaction results than the other questions on the survey. He questioned if the assessments themselves needed to be re-evaluated. Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB stated that based on the comments received on that survey question, many participants indicated that the assessments/tests take too much time and they do not see the benefit. There was a discussion among the Council about changing the perception of the assessments so that the youth participants realize the value of the assessments. Council Member Dodson suggested that the terms “assessments” and “tests” may have a negative connotation with the youth participants.

MADDEN/BONNER – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT CONSENT ITEM 6B. (UNANIMOUS)

Item 6C – Youth Providers of Services' Monitoring Report

Director Madden had a question about one (1) of the items listed in the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission's programmatic monitoring results: Finding #3, which stated “Eligibility issues resulting in unbillable costs”. Cheryl Beierschmitt, Deputy Director Fiscal Services, FRWDB, explained that programmatic monitoring is conducted for FRWDB providers once a year, at which time FRWDB Monitoring staff pulls a ten percent (10%) sample to review. In this particular monitoring that Director Madden referred to, 54 files were reviewed and 21 of those needed eligibility correction, according to WIOA eligibility requirements.

MADDEN/MARTINDALE – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT CONSENT ITEM 6C. (UNANIMOUS, WITH RECUSAL NOTED ABOVE).

7. **Program Year 2022-2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Local Area Youth Program Performance Results**

Ms. Stogbauer presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB acceptance, the PY 2022-2023 WIOA Local Area Youth Program performance results. She explained that the FRWDB negotiates the goals with the State of California every two (2) years for six (6) primary indicators of performance: Employment or Educate Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit, Employment or Education Rate 4th Quarter after Exit, Median Earnings, Credential Attainment, Measurable Skill Gains, and Effectiveness in Serving Employers. Ms. Stogbauer reported that FRWDB exceeded all required Youth Program performance score levels for PY 2022-2023.

MARTINDALE/ANDERSON – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE PY 2022-2023 WIOA LOCAL AREA YOUTH PROGRAM PERFORMANCE RESULTS. (UNANIMOUS)

8. **Youth Demographics Report**

Ms. Stogbauer presented the Fourth Quarter PY 2023-2024 and First Quarter PY 2024-2025 Youth Demographics Reports for the Council's review. She reviewed the charts for each of the demographics and noted that this information was collected at time of participant eligibility from participants' applications. Demographics information include ethnicity, age, public assistance information, barriers, and education.

This was an information item.

9. **Agenda Items for February 20, 2025, Meeting**

There were no items suggested for the February 20, 2025, Youth Council Meeting.

10. **Meeting Feedback**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.