



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Skills Development Council
May 7, 2025

SUMMARY MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Stephen Avila, Douglas Dart, Jeff Hensley, Joe Olivares, and Lydia Zabrycki

ABSENT – Scott Miller, Sandra Vicente, and Chris Zeitz

AGENDA CHANGES: None

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

COUNCIL CHAIR/ STAFF
COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Item	Description/Action Taken
1.	<p><u>February 5, 2025, Skills Development Council Meeting Minutes</u></p> <p>Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), presented February 5, 2025, Skills Development Council (Council) meeting minutes for the Council's approval, or correction and approval.</p> <p>OLIVARES/AVILA – APPROVED THE FEBRUARY 5, 2025, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)</p>
2.	<p><u>Ratification of New Skills Development Council Member</u></p> <p>Mr. Konczal presented for recommendation to the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), the ratification of Director Lenora Lacy Barnes to the Council.</p> <p>OLIVARES/HENSLEY – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB RATIFY NEW SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBER. (UNANIMOUS)</p>
3.	<p><u>Eligible Training Provider List Monitoring Report</u></p> <p>Cheryl Beierschmitt, Deputy Director Fiscal Services, FRWDB, presented for the Council's acceptance, the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Monitoring Report for the Third Quarter of Program Year (PY) 2024-2025. She explained that FRWDB staff conducts monitoring of all ETPL providers to ensure they are in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations or policy.</p>

She indicated that monitoring of Agape College was completed during the Third Quarter of PY 2024-2025 and that monitoring was in process for the California Institute of Medical Science and the Clinical Training Institute. There were no findings for Agape College to address.

Director Olivares asked what steps were involved in the review process. Ms. Beirschmitt explained that some of the criteria included visiting sites, reviewing case files, sharing observations or recommendations, and sending final closing letters.

Director Olivares also asked if monitoring included placement rate information. Ms. Beirschmitt replied that it did not. Mr. Konczal shared that the state ETPL tracked placement rates and that schools that fall below a certain placement rate percentage no longer receive referrals. Mr. Konczal said he believed the placement rate to be 75%, but that he would confirm the percentage with Jose Espinoza, Training Manager, FRWDB.

Director Avila asked if it was common not to have any findings to address. Director Zabrycki replied that it was, and that no findings meant that schools were in compliance. Director Zabrycki asked where Agape College was located. Rebecca Moncivais, Monitoring Manager, FRWDB, replied that it was located in Downtown Fresno.

OLIVARES/AVILA – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER LIST MONITORING REPORT. (UNANIMOUS)

4. Forestry Corps Update

At the request of Director Zabrycki at the January 2025, Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Konczal provided an update of the FRWDB's Forestry Corps program. Mr. Konczal shared that the FRWDB was trying to expand the Forestry Corps with grants that have been received by the State Workforce Board, Cal Fire, and the State of California. Mr. Konczal indicated that the FRWDB's Forestry Corps was now the Golden State Forestry Corps due to the expansion of the program to Tuolumne, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Mr. Konczal also shared that the FRWDB was seeking for the federal government to designate a portion of the land in the Stanislaus National Forest as a training reserve.

This was an information item.

5. Individual Training Account Overview

Mr. Espinoza gave the Council an overview of the FRWDB's participant training activities and expenditures for the period of July 2024 through March 2025. Mr. Espinoza 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. He also reviewed the total Individual Training Account expenditures, highlighting Healthcare and Accounting as two (2) of the top performing industries.

This was an information item.

6. Special Grants Training Overview

Ashley Matthews, Senior Special Projects Manager, FRWDB, spoke about the ValleyBuild Apprenticeship Readiness Program and the multiple grants that fund that project. Ms. Matthews shared a PowerPoint that included overviews of each special grant's regional performance progress. She also announced that due to approved funding, the co-ed cohort for ValleyBuild would be partially at the Fresno City College campus, and an Expo would be planned for the next graduation.

Ms. Matthews also shared photos of ValleyBuild graduations, the Women's Conference, and the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program's 15-year Luncheon.

Director Avila asked what level of follow-up occurred with participants who had not graduated. Ms. Matthews replied that participants still received retention and job placement services, as well as continued communication with Ashlee Marquez, Project Coordinator, FRWDB, and that Ms. Marquez also communicated with participant's case managers, as well.

Director Hensley asked if any lessons were learned about having to manage regional programs and if a different skillset was being developed. Ms. Matthews replied that lessons were learned, and that one important skillset adapted was people management.

Beatriz Lopez, Special Projects Interim Manager, FRWDB spoke about the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps and that program's regional performance process. Ms. Lopez also shared photos of the activities of Fresno Cohort 11; the Cohort 10 Achievement Award Winner, Joshua Swindell; and the Adult Business of Excellence Award winner, BurnBot, Inc.

Director Olivares shared with the Council that he received an email stating that the Federal Administration was pulling their funding back, impacting placement availability and that he hoped the FRWDB was preparing for this since a lot of construction training had been done with much success.

This was an information item.

7. Discretionary Grants Report

Va 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 Grant; the Fresno Fatherhood Grant; the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships Grant; the Student Training and Employment Program 2.0 Grant; the Prison to Employment Grant; and the English Language Learner Integrated Education and Training Grant. In her overview, Ms. Xiong stated each grant's purpose, target population, and period of performance. Ms. Xiong indicated that each grant was at various stages of their grant cycle, as she discussed each grants' progress through December 2025.

This was an information item.

8. Overview of Staff Trainings

Mr. Espinoza presented an overview of staff trainings scheduled for the Third Quarter of PY 2024-2025. Mr. Espinoza updated the Council on the staff trainings that had already occurred, including Stress Management training in January 2025 and the Customer Service training in February 2025. He noted that training for March was postponed until April 22, 2025, which was in the Fourth Quarter of PY 2024-2025.

Mr. Espinoza also presented an overview of other staff trainings scheduled for the Fourth Quarter of PY 2024-2025, which included FRWDB's All Staff Conference and Eligibility and Intake Procedures training.

This was an information item.

9. Information Sharing

Mr. Konczal shared information concerning the status of the federal funding of workforce programs. He stated that he learned that the current President of the United States released a budget, which included a reduction in overall federal spending on workforce programs by 23% through the elimination of duplicative programs. He also shared that the federal government was considering an increase in the mandatory training funds from 30% to 50% for adult programs, and to 40% for youth programs. He also shared that the FRWDB had planned to be proactive in anticipation of these changes.

This was an information item.

10. August 6, 2025, Agenda Items

There were no items recommended for the August 6, 2025, Skills Development Council meeting agenda.

11. Meeting Feedback

There was no meeting feedback provided.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.