



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Adult Council
May 28, 2026
SUMMARY MINUTES

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

PRESENT – Joe Olivares, Chuck Riojas, and Sherri Watkins

ABSENT – None

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.	<u>January 22, 2026, Adult Council Meeting Minutes</u> Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), presented the January 22, 2026, Adult Council (Council) meeting minutes for the Council's approval. WATKINS/OLIVARES – APPROVED THE JANUARY 22, 2026, ADULT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)
2.	<u>Adult Business of Excellence Award Winner</u> Martha Espinosa, Deputy Director of Marketing, Grants and Business Initiatives, FRWDB, highlighted the success story of the Adult Business of Excellence Award winner, The Vineyards, California Armenian Home. The Vineyards is a skilled nursing and long-term care facility and have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to workforce development, compassionate care, and community partnership. They provide high quality care to elderly residents, which creates meaningful career opportunities within the healthcare industry. Ms. Espinosa shared a video highlighting The Vineyards, and also the FRWDB's 2023 Fourth Quarter Youth Achievement Award recipient, Ms. Anna Lozano, who is employed by The Vineyard as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Ms. Espinosa also reported on a community roundtable held on May 13 in Mendota, in partnership with westside leaders to better understand local workforce challenges and strengthen connections within the community. Participants included local elected officials, community-based organizations, and representatives from state government. Discussions highlighted known barriers for westside residents, such as high commuting costs, limited public transportation, reliance on multiple part-time jobs, limited Spanish-language training opportunities, and reduced access to GED programs.

It was also shared that there was a perception that seasonal agricultural work can provide higher earnings than some entry-level positions, that many residents use the agricultural off-season for family responsibilities and travel, and that transitions from seasonal work to lower-paying jobs could create financial instability. Staff noted ongoing efforts to expand Spanish-language training opportunities with West Hills Community College and address educational barriers through workforce and training initiatives. It was also noted that Kerman lost their, once very large, GED program. Mr. Konczal shared that FRWDB had recently been designated as a HiSET testing center. During the discussion, Council Member Watkins noted potential partnerships with local educational providers to expand training and adult education opportunities in the region.

Ms. Espinosa shared that FRWDB had recently applied for a seed grant under GoBiz, but did not receive the grant. However, the FRWDB's grant application included a concept of offering entrepreneurship classes, and now, under the Business Services umbrella, FRWDB has partnered with the Small Business Administration to offer entrepreneur classes. FRWDB staff had hoped for ten (10) enrollments for the class, and there were 17. She thanked FRWDB Business Services Manager, Sandra Vidrio, and Coordinator, Luke Torossian, for their work on this project.

Ms. Espinosa concluded her report by announcing the upcoming Boots on the Ground all-staff event, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ruby Payne, author of *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. The event would conclude a series of staff trainings focused on understanding poverty, fostering empathy, and improving services for individuals from diverse backgrounds.

This was an information item.

3. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Contract Award Recommendations for Program Year 2026-2027

Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB, presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB approval, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult and Dislocated Worker service provider contract awards for Program Year (PY) 2026-2027. Ms. Stogbauer reminded the Council that under the FRWDB Procurement Policy, contracts must be procured at least once every five (5) years. The current WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker service contracts were set to expire on June 30, 2026. On March 10, 2026, FRWDB staff released two (2) Request for Proposals (RFPs): One (1) to provide Intensive Services for Adults, and one (1) to provide Intensive Services for Dislocated Workers.

Ms. Stogbauer shared that in anticipation of changes to federal regulations associated with the WIOA reauthorization, FRWDB senior staff drafted a hybrid service model for Adult and Dislocated Worker services where FRWDB staff would provide Career Services and Job Readiness Workshops. The FRWDB obtained approval from the Governor to provide these services. The deadline for submission of proposals under the RFPs was March 31, 2026. FRWDB received three (3) proposals for Adult services and two (2) for Dislocated Worker services. Based on a review of the proposals by an Evaluation Team, it was recommended to award the contract for Adult services to Equus Workforce Solutions, and Dislocated Worker Services to Central Labor Council Partnership.

Mr. Konczal explained that under the current model, FRWDB receives historic data about participants. Under the new hybrid model, where FRWDB would provide Basic Career Services and staff the Resource Rooms, FRWDB will have up-to-date information on participants before enrollment, during enrollment, and post-exit.

WATKINS/OLIVARES – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB APPROVE THE WIOA ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027. (UNANIMOUS)

4. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Provider Funding Recommendations for Program Year 2026-2027

Mr. Konczal presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB approval, the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Provider Funding Recommendations for PY 2026-2027. He provided a PowerPoint, breaking down formula funding allocations received by the State of California Employment Development Department. FRWDB received a decrease in Adult funding in the amount of \$841,683, and an increase in Dislocated Worker funding in the amount of \$1,326,420, for an overall decrease in funding in the amount of \$311,309. The agenda item included a detailed allocation of PY 2026-2027 funds.

Director Olivares mentioned that FRWDB had, in the past, requested a move of funds from Dislocated Worker to Adult, and asked how likely were they to do that again for the new PY. Mr. Konczal stated that it was within the FRWDB's discretion to move funds, but that would not be discussed until the current PY was closed out. Cheryl Beierschmitt, Deputy Director of Fiscal Services, FRWDB, noted that FRWDB was allowed to move ten percent (10%) of funds.

WATKINS/OLIVARES – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB APPROVE THE WIOA ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER PROVIDER FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PY 2026-2027. (UNANIMOUS)

5. IMAGO Video Lessons Contract Award

Veronica McAlister, Associate Deputy Director, FRWDB, presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB approval, a contract award to IMAGO in the amount of \$150,000 to develop career pathway lessons in the Forestry, Construction and Healthcare sectors, as well as 15-second promotional videos to support outreach and engagement under the English Language Learner Integrated Education and Training grant. The videos would be a series of career pathways lessons in a teaching style format with quizzes embedded. Ms. McAlister explained that they would be more than promoting FRWDB training programs; they would be for career exploration that included information on wage gains, education required, and where each career path could lead.

Director Olivares asked if this award was a result of a procurement or bid process, or was it a sole source. Mr. Konczal stated that this was not a sole source contract, and that the funding for these types of marketing videos was written into the grants FRWDB received for construction, forestry and healthcare. Ms. Stogbauer added that under the FRWDB's revised and updated Procurement Policy, small purchase limit was raised to \$350,000, which allows more flexibility without doing an RFP.

Council Member Watkins shared that Burlington English is a product that had already developed these types of videos for Career Technical Education with a cost of approximately \$100 per student. Ms. McAlister stated that she would look into what they had to offer.

OLIVARES/RIOJAS – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB APPROVE THE IMAGO VIDEO LESSONS CONTRACT AWARD. (YES – 2; NO – 1)

6. Local Performance Results Reports

Ms. McAlister presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB acceptance, the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Providers of Services' Local Performance Results Reports for the Third Quarter of Program Year (PY) 2025-2026. She reviewed each page of the report and pointed out that all sites had met their enrollment numbers, most surpassed them, for the Third Quarter.

She reported that for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, expenditures were on target for the Third Quarter, and placement rates were also on target with both Adult and Dislocated Worker programs exceeding their goals. The Council had no questions for staff about the reports.

OLIVARES/WATKINS – RECOMMENDED THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE LOCAL PERFORMANCE RESULTS REPORTS. (UNANIMOUS)

7. Job Seeker Customer Satisfaction Reports

Ms. McAlister presented the Job Seekers Customer Satisfaction Reports for Third Quarter of PY 2025-2026 for the Council's review and recommendation for FRWDB approval. She reported that for Basic Career Services, 565 participants completed the survey in the Third Quarter, and almost 99% stated they were satisfied with the services received. Ms. McAlister noted that although almost 99% of the responses were positive, FRWDB staff does review the less than positive feedback and address any issues that are revealed through survey responses.

WATKINS/OLIVARES – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE JOB SEEKER SATISFACTION REPORTS. (UNANIMOUS)

8. Providers of Services' Monitoring Report

Rebecca Moncivais, Monitoring Manager, FRWDB, presented for the Council's recommendation for FRWDB acceptance, the Third Quarter Monitoring Report for Adult Providers of Services. She noted that staff conducts monitoring of all contracts to ensure that they are in compliance with Federal, State and local regulations. She reviewed the report, which showed the programmatic and fiscal monitorings that were either in process or completed during the Third Quarter of PY 2025-2026.

WATKINS/OLIVARES – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE PROVIDERS OF SERVICES' MONITORING REPORT. (UNANIMOUS)

9. America's Job Centers of California Usage Report

Ms. Stogbauer presented the America's Job Centers of California Usage report. She noted that there was very little change on the clients and visits trend report from the previous quarter. She mentioned that the number of visits were always higher than the number of clients due to the potential for multiple visits from each client.

This was an information item.

10. Adult and Dislocated Worker Demographics Reports

Ms. Stogbauer presented the Adult and Dislocated Workers Demographics Reports. She shared that demographics information is collected at the time of eligibility, and that the report reflected very little change from the previous report.

After reviewing all sections of the report, Ms. Stogbauer presented a modified Ethnicity report, where the "No Response" percentage was removed from the chart. This provided a more accurate representation of the demographics of individuals visiting the AJCCs. This new format would be used moving forward.

This was an information item.

11. Agenda Items for July 23, 2026

There were no items recommended for the July 23, 2026, meeting.

12. Meeting Feedback

Mr. Konczal presented Council Member Watkins with a card and flowers in recognition of her service to the Adult Council. She was retiring from the State Center Adult Education Consortium as of June 30, 2026, and this was her last Adult Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.