



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Skills Development Council
February 4, 2026

SUMMARY MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Lacy Barnes, Douglas Dart, Jeff Hensley, Scott Miller, Joe Olivares, Sandra Vicente, and Chris Zeitz

ABSENT – Steven Avila and Lydia Zabrycki

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>November 5, 2025, Skills Development Council Meeting Minutes</u> Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), presented the November 5, 2025, Skills Development Council (Council) meeting minutes for the Council's approval, or correction and approval. OLIVARES/DART – APPROVED THE NOVEMBER 5, 2025, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)
2.	<u>Eligible Training Provider List Monitoring Report</u> Rebecca Moncivais, Monitoring Manager, FRWDB, presented for the Council's recommendation, the acceptance of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Monitoring Report for the Second Quarter Program Year (PY) 2025-2026. Ms. Moncivais stated that the monitoring of three (3) schools was completed for the Second Quarter of PY 2025-2026 and one (1) was in process. She indicated that the results from the in-process monitoring would be reflected in the Third Quarter report. OLIVARES/MILLER – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB ACCEPT THE ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER LIST MONITORING REPORT. (UNANIMOUS)

3. Individual Training Account Overview

Jose Espinoza, Training Manager, FRWDB, provided the Council with an overview of the FRWDB's Individual Training Accounts for the period of July 2025, through December 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; for a total Individual Training Account Expenditure of \$2,126,449.27.

Mr. Espinoza also presented a report on the number of unique individuals enrolled in training in urban and rural areas. The report distinguished between males and females in these areas and included the total of unique individuals enrolled in training, how many unique individuals completed training, and how many unique individuals were still actively training.

Director Olivares asked where participants can go with accounting and tax preparation training, as it had the second highest number of enrolled on the report. Mr. Espinoza explained that a lot of those participants look for bookkeeping positions in healthcare facilities.

Director Zeitz asked if FRWDB was considering more Commercial Driver's License referrals due to there being a possible loss of drivers in California. Mr. Espinoza stated that FRWDB had conversations internally regarding the possibility of losing drivers and that he would work with Kyle Hamilton, ETPL Coordinator, FRWDB, to gain clarity on the situation.

This was an information item.

4. ValleyBuild 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 provided a PowerPoint presentation that showed the regional performance progress for ValleyBuild's North, South, and Central regions.

In reference to the PowerPoint, Director Barnes asked what happened when enrollments were low, referring to MotherLode's enrollments. Ms. Matthews explained that modifications were made with funding, which resulted in the addition of the Oakhurst and Sonora cohorts to help increase enrollments.

Ms. Matthews shared that the newest project under ValleyBuild was the Disaster Recovery Program. The program brings some of the certifications from the Forestry Program and incorporates them into the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) Program.

Director Hensley asked if there was any concern for the Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) not surviving budget cuts. Ms. Matthews stated she did not foresee any WDBs being in jeopardy. Mr. Konczal noted that it was essential to maintain relationships with the Building Trades Councils.

This was an information item.

5. Greater Sierra Forestry Corps Overview

Beatriz Lopez, Special Projects Manager, FRWDB, provided an overview of the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps, which included a PowerPoint presentation that showed the program's regional performance progress, and shared about events that happened in December 2025. Currently in progress were four (4) cohorts: Sonora, Oakhurst, Fresno, and Bakersfield.

Mr. Konczal noted that the YMCA at Camp Sequoia Lake had an existing Forest Management Plan, which allowed the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps trainees to get hands-on training.

Ms. Lopez shared participant highlights that all demonstrated the positive impact the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps had on their lives.

This was an information item.

6. Adult and Young Adult Discretionary Grants Report

Veronica McAlister, Associate Deputy Director, FRWDB, presented an overview of the Adult and Young Adult Discretionary grant funding. She reviewed the English Language Learner Integrated Education and Training (ELL-IET) Grant, Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP) Grant, Prison to Employment (P2E) Grant, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Corps Grant, One Fresno Youth Grant, Student Training and Employment Program (STEP) 2.0 Grant, and Growth Opportunities Grant.

In her overview, Ms. McAlister stated that the Growth Opportunities Grant would launch in spring 2026. She also pointed out that the STEP Year Two (2) Grant ended on December 31, 2025, but had rolled over to STEP Year Three (3). She explained that RERP, P2E, and STEP met their goals. ELL, and EMS Corps were on track to have their goals met. The One Fresno Youth Grant contract was extended by the City of Fresno, which allowed more people to be served.

Ms. McAlister highlighted two (2) grants: ELL-IET and EMS Corps. She stated that the ELL-IET Grant partnered with Valley Regional Occupational Program as a training provider, which had led to three (3) trainings: Certified Nursing Assistant, Wildland Firefighting, and Heavy Equipment Operator. Ms. McAlister also pointed out that the EMS Corps was in its first cohort and participants were scheduled to graduate in March.

This was an information item.

7. Overview of Staff Trainings

Mr. Espinoza presented an overview of trainings that had occurred in the Second Quarter, which included Compliance Guidance Part 2 for youth providers, FRWDB All Staff Conference, and Eligibility and Intake Procedures for Adult and Dislocated Worker providers. He also provided a list of upcoming staff trainings for the Third Quarter of PY 2025-2026.

This was an information item.

8. Information Sharing

There was no information shared by Council members.

9. May 6, 2026, Agenda Items

No items were added for the May 6, 2026, agenda.

10. Meeting Feedback

There was no meeting feedback provided.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.