

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
of San Luis Obispo County**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: County Office of Education, 3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo

Present: Isiah Gomer, William Hills, Dr. James Brescia, Josh Cross, Veronica Orozco, Tricia Robertson, Angela Toomey, Verena Latona-Tahlman, Ronald Reilly, Mark Simonin, Patrick Woolpert, Michael Sloan, Justin McIntire
Absent: Melissa James, David Baldwin, Dr. Jill Stearns, Ryan Stanley, Angela Rayfield
Guests: Daniel Tatick, Christina Kuhn, Jennifer Campos, Michael Specchierla, Jennifer Clayton, Cheryl Ruck, Lucia Pohlman, Chris Read, Andiry Moskalyk, Gloria Balderas, Jessica Blanco
Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Diana Marin, Eddie Hernandez, Tony Girolo

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Chairperson Isiah Gomer called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. **Quorum reached.**

2. Approve for WDB member to participate remotely due to circumstances allowed under AB249:

Item 2 was placed on the 5/4 WDB meeting agenda at the request of member Rayfield who asked to participate remotely under AB2449. This request was approved by County Counsel as an allowable circumstance under the AB2449 legislation. Following public posting of the agenda, member Rayfield notified the WDB she was unable to attend the 5/4 meeting remotely. On the morning of the meeting, member Stearns requested to join the meeting remotely under AB2449, however, County Counsel determined there were not circumstances stated by member Stearns at the meeting that warranted an accommodation as allowed under AB2449.

3. Public Comment:

Chair Gomer: No public comment

4. Presentations

4.1 Andiry Moskalyk presented on EDD Labor Market Information

4.2 Chris Read and Lucia Pohlman from the SLO City Sustainability and Natural Resources Office presented to the Board about their work

5. Consent Items:

5.1 Approved the February 2, 2023, Minutes:

The Board approves consent item 5.1 in a single motion

Motion: Justin McIntire

Second: Dr. James Brescia

Motion Passed Unanimously

6. Action Items:

6.1 Review and Approve Draft Scope of Work and Budget for Program Year 2023-24 WIOA Youth Services Contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.

Dawn Boulanger (staff) and Christina Kuhn presented the item which is available as part of the agenda.

Motion: Dr. James Brescia

Second: Justin McIntire

Abstentions: Josh Cross

Motion Passed

6.2 Review and Approve Draft Scope of Work and Budget for Program Year 2023-24 SLO Cal Career Center Services Contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.

Diana Marin (staff) and Christina Kuhn presented the item which is available as part of the agenda.

Motion: William Hills

Second: Veronica Latona-Tahlman

Abstentions: Josh Cross

Motion Passed

6.3 Review and Approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification for 2023-25

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented the item which is available as part of the agenda.

Motion: Justin McIntire

Second: Josh Cross

Motion Passed Unanimously

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 Receive Quarter 3 Eckerd AJCC WIOA Contract Performance Report

Diana Marin (Staff) discussed and updated the Board on the positive increase in foot traffic at the SLO Cal Careers Job Center with over 150 more visitors in Quarter 3 and 19 new enrollments. Mrs. Marin also mentioned the AJCC is slightly under the projected goal for this time of the year in spending and leveraged resources. Diana also clarified how training expenditures and leveraged resources fluctuate in reporting due to the way invoicing and payments are processed.

Diana Marin also reported that Eckerd staff have been very engaged in Quarter 3 with community partners, attending chamber events and networking with local employers. This level of outreach has led to an increase in the Job Center foot traffic and increased OJTs. Eckerd has continued to provide a monthly Employer Spotlight where they showcase a local employer who is hiring. Diana also mentioned that some of the Covid-19 waivers at the Department of Social Services have lifted which will most likely contribute to increased traffic at the Job Center as well. Lastly, Diana directed members of the board to several success stories highlighted in the agenda that show the benefits of both the WIOA programs and the Job Center.

7.2 Receive Quarter 3 SLOCOE Youth Contract Performance Report

Diana Marin (Staff) reported that in Quarter 3 there were ten successful enrollments into the youth program and quite a few more referrals. The referrals were coming in from the Echo Homeless Shelter, various school districts, the Probation Department, and The Team Academic Parenting Program. This data shows that the Youth Program staff have been engaging well with partners and the community at large. There were also examples of business outreach during Quarter 3, specifically with People's Self Help Housing, whom is also the employer for the first Work Experience (WEX) for the Quarter. A youth has been placed as a paraeducator with People's Self Help Housing and is making nineteen dollars hourly which is well above minimum wage. Diana also stated she was thrilled to see twenty-five barriers to employment identified for the participating youth versus three from the previous quarter. She is not thrilled to see that these barriers are present, but the identification of them shows the effectiveness of the Youth Program in reaching our most vulnerable population of young people. Dr. James Brescia added that he is happy to see the goal of forty enrollments projected versus seventy-five, which he believes to be far more realistic in scope. Lastly, Diana passed out a handout detailing a success story from the Youth Program.

8. Reports:

a.) Executive Committee and Chairperson Report

Chairperson Gomer reported that the Executive Committee met on March 29, 2023, and on April 26, 2023. Isiah summarized the various action items that were

approved during the two meetings. Chairperson Gomer stated that the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2023, at 8:00 AM

b.) Services Addressing Barriers to Employment

Dawn Boulanger (staff) expressed the desire of the WDB staff to start giving a better idea of how they are addressing barriers to employment in both their Adult and Youth Programs. Dawn referred to a diagram displayed on the screen for members to see where barriers were broken down into percentages showing the number of participants dealing with those respective barriers. The entirety of the participants can be classified as low-income. Dawn made the point that the dislocated workers tend to have less barriers than other categories of clients and they often tend to exhaust their EDD benefits before reaching out for services. Chairperson Gomer asked if the numbers reported related specifically to this program year and Dawn confirmed that was correct.

c.) Board Member Workforce Development Updates

Dr. Brescia reported that the SLOCOE has secured a cohort of 25 individuals pursuing an Early Childhood Education specialization and that SLOCOE will be meeting with Derek Johnson from the City of San Luis Obispo and Erik Prater from San Luis Obispo Coastal Unified School District regarding the ongoing construction of an Early Childhood Education Center on an adjacent property to SLOCOE. This expansion will make childcare more accessible to public sector employees of San Luis Obispo County. SLOCOE also has secured internal grant funding to host seventy-five youths in a summer program that will prepare them for their professional lives beyond high school. Dr. Brescia also iterated that SLOCOE still offers half a million for upskilling of public sector employees in the local workforce. Tricia Robertson from the Lucia Mar School District reported that Lucia Mar authorized Adult Education to start working with CTE Pathways towards effective credential programs but that this project is still in its infancy. Josh Cross from the Atascadero Chamber reported that the Atascadero Chamber's Junior CEO Program sponsored by Eckerd Connects had a successful event on 04/01/2023 where twenty-four of the junior CEO's unveiled their businesses to the public in Atascadero. The kids were able to make money and get experience with leadership. Josh also introduced new North County Chamber staff member Gloria Balderas to the group and Jessica Blanco from the South County Chamber. Both Gloria and Jessica are new Chamber Business Services staff who have been tasked with working on layoff aversion and increasing business engagement in our communities. This concluded updates by the board members.

9. Administrative Entity Update:

9.1 Receive and Review Fiscal Budget Update

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented the item, which is available as an addendum to the agenda.

9.2 Receive and Review Rapid Response Update

Tony Girolo (staff) presented the item, which is available as part of the agenda.

10. Next Meeting:

August 3, 2023

8:00 – 10:00 AM

Location: County Office of Education, 3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo

11. Adjournment:

Chair Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 09:55 A.M.

I, Tony Girolo, Clerk of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, by the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Tony Girolo, WDB Program Review Specialist

Dated: May 11, 2023