

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
of San Luis Obispo County
BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting- <https://slohealth.zoom.us/j/98579656908?pwd=RDViTytDMmZ6ZG9DaHFBYVVFdjBUZz09>

Present: Verena Latona-Tahlman, Kely Blackburn, Lorna Hewitt, Michael Specchierla
Absent: John Cascamo, Chuck Jehle, Judy Mahan, Kirk Coviello
Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Sarah Hayter, Diana Marin
Guest: Tammy Aguilera, Christina Kuhn

1. Call to Order:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: called the meeting to order at 9:04 P.M. **Quorum.**

2. Action Items:

2.1 Approve a resolution authorizing the Business Council to hold teleconferenced public meetings for an additional thirty-day period pursuant to AB-361.

Motion: Michael Specchierla
Second: Kely Blackburn
Abstentions: None
Motion Passed Unanimously

3. Public Comment:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: no public comment.

4. Consent Items:

4.1 Approve the October 21, 2021 Minutes

Motion: Kely Blackburn
Second: Michael Sppechierla
Abstentions: None
Motion Passed Unanimously

5. AJCC Update:

5.1 Receive Report on AJCC Business Services

Lorna Hewitt (member) presented the item which provided an update on the San Luis Obispo America's Job Center of CA (AJCC). Ms. Hewitt stated that the AJCC has made contact with employers in the construction industry. The employers have been actively recruiting mostly plumbers, however many of those jobs require travel, which can be difficult to fill if transportation is a barrier for the applicants. Ms. Hewitt also stated that the AJCC has seen an increase in higher-skilled job seekers looking for higher-wage careers, rather than entry-level positions. Employers throughout most industries, including food services, construction, and healthcare, have expressed high demand for hiring and have been more interested in working with the AJCC to help them with their recruitment needs. Tammy Aguilera (guest) introduced Christina Kuhn (guest) who is a staff member of the Eckerd team and will be reassigned to the AJCC in SLO for 6-12 months. Ms. Kuhn stated that she had attended a recent SLO Chamber mixer event and had made several new business contacts and was hopeful about her potential leads. Michael Sppechierla (member) inquired about the job seekers enrolled at the AJCC and how well they aligned with the business needs. Ms. Aguilera (guest) stated that they had a variety of skilled and unskilled job seekers looking for work at the AJCC and that staff

could use CalJOBS to do skills match searches for employers if there were no qualified applicants enrolled in WIOA services at the AJCC.

6. Information/Discussion:

6.1 Receive Labor Market Information on Transportation Industry and Driver Occupations and Driver Training Opportunity through District

Diana Marin (staff) presented the item which was part of the agenda. Ms. Marin provided data on the Transportation Industry and Driver Occupations. Michael Specchierla (member) spoke about bus driver training opportunities that are available through the SLO County Office of Education (CEO) and the school districts throughout the county. Mr. Sppechierla also mentioned that the SLO CEO and the school districts have been working on coordinating the marketing to drive interest in those training opportunities and occupations.

6.2 Review Proposed Council Goals for PY2021-2022

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented the item. Ms. Boulanger reviewed the proposed goals set forth by the Business Council at the October 21, 2021 meeting and the membership discussed actions and next steps to achieve the listed goals which include addressing barriers to employment such as childcare and compensation. The council discussed increasing awareness among the business community of new and existing childcare resources and offering businesses data with a comparison of wages in SLO County versus the region for similar occupations. The council also discussed the WDB Employer Training Seminars and the WDB Contract for Layoff Aversion Business Services with the Chambers.

6.3 Discuss Implementation of WDB Business Services with Chambers of Commerce

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented the item. Ms. Boulanger explained that two staff have been hired through a contract executed by the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce to provide support (specifically Layoff Aversion support) to local businesses. The two chamber staff members will divide the county up and provide local businesses with information and resources based on their individual needs. They will also be assisting businesses with the upcoming ARPA COVID-19 Small Business Grant that is scheduled to be released in March.

7. Council Member Workforce Development Updates:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: opened the floor to updates from the Committee membership.

Verena Latona-Tahlman, chair- spoke

Kely Blackburn, member- spoke

Michael Specchierla, member- spoke

Dawn Boulanger, staff- spoke

8. Next Meeting:

April 21, 2022 9:00am-10:30am

Location to be determined

9. Adjournment:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: adjourned the meeting at 10:26 A.M.

I, Diana Marin, Clerk of the Business Council 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 Thursday, February 17, 2022, by the Business Council of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Diana Marin, Business Council Clerk

Dated: February 28, 2022