

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
of San Luis Obispo County
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Location: DSS, 3433 S Higuera Street-Room 358, San Luis Obispo

Present: Isiah Gomer, Josh Cross, William Hills, Verena Latona-Tahlman

Absent: Justin McIntire

Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Diana Marin, Eddie Hernandez, Tony Girolo

Guests: Gemi Bertran, Brandy Wair

1. Call to Order:

Chair Gomer: called the meeting to order at 8:37 A.M. **Quorum.**

2. Public Comment:

Gemi Beltran and Brandy Wair (guests) provided information about Nourish the Brain Institute and its training programs. They expressed their interest in partnering with local employers and agencies as Nourish the Brain Institute has recently been added as a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) approved provider on the state's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). The informational documents they provided have been included as an addendum to the meeting agenda.

3. Consent Items:

3.1 Approve the October 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The Committee approves consent items 3.1 in a single motion.

Motion: William Hills

Second: Josh Cross

Abstentions: None

Motions Passed Unanimously

4. Action Items:

4.1 Review and Approve Eckerd PY 2023-24 WIOA Title I Adult/DW Services Contract Budget Modification

Diana Marin presented the item which is available as part of the agenda.

Motion: Josh Cross

Second: William Hills

Abstentions: None

Motion Passed

5. Information/Discussion Items:

5.1 Receive update on Non-WIOA Special Grants

Dawn (staff) presented this topic regarding a summary of the current non-WIOA grants that the SLO County Workforce Development Board currently has and then requested that the present Board members speculate regarding types of non-WIOA grants the Board should pursue moving forward.

Currently, the High Roads Construction Careers grant, the RERP grant, the Prison to Employment grant, and the Regional Plan Implementation grant are the Board's sources of non-WIOA funding that are secured. All are multiple year grants. Chair Gomer voiced concern over the lack of visibility of existing training and programs at Cuesta college, specifically the CDL Driver Certification program. This ties into the RERP grant with Cuesta College.

Dawn Boulanger responded that she hopes the some of the focus with the RERP grant with Cuesta can align these types of issues more and get clarity on Career Pathways and CTE programs at the school. William Hills (Co-Chair) expressed his interest in identifying grants that focus on upskilling existing workers to earn competitive wages locally. Will also mentioned that compiling a selection of grants and presenting those to board members would be helpful so they can contrast and compare to find the best ones to pursue. Isiah Gomer (Chair) also reiterated the importance of focusing on grants that help create more tier 1 and tier 2 jobs in our area. Will asked the group if it would be more efficient to partner with existing established training programs versus building programs from scratch. He mentioned the SLO Partners as an example of a local organization that has established training programs. Josh Cross (member) shared that he is seeing a lot of demand for upskilling and suggested modeling our programs after other CA counties existing programs that have proven results. Dawn summarized the discussion and then closed with her opinion that one of the biggest issues

being a training gap in the local workforce. Gemi Bertran (guest) shared that her organization, Nourish the Brain Institute, can help create tier 2 jobs for individuals. The group then had a brief discussion surrounding the usefulness of an Ad-Hoc group to delve deeper into this topic of non-WIOA grants and sector partnerships.

6. Reports:

a) Chairman's Report: Chair Gomer pitched the conversation back to Dawn Boulanger (staff) regarding an idea of inviting members of the Humboldt County Workforce Development Board who are also working with an upcoming wind energy project to our next full board meeting. Humboldt County has received an additional assistance grant to properly prepare their local workforce for the upcoming wind energy industry changes in their region. Humboldt County staff cannot attend our upcoming scheduled May 2nd full board meeting. Dawn and Isiah proposed to the group re-scheduling the May meeting or creating a separate "special" meeting to accommodate the Humboldt County wind project presentation. William Hills (Co-Chair) stressed clarifying the role of the Workforce Development Board in this process of incorporating a new industry into our County. The conversation closed with a consensus to re-schedule the May WDB meeting to accommodate the Humboldt WDB members presentation.

b) Board Member Workforce Development Updates: Verena Latona-Tahlman (member) stated things at Cannon Corporation are going well with steady hiring, strategic planning, and incorporating paraprofessionals into their company structure.

7. Administrative Entity Updates:

7.1 Receive and Review Fiscal Budget Update: Dawn Boulanger (Staff) reported on the Fiscal Budget which is available as part of the agenda.

7.2 Receive and Rapid Response Report: Tony Girolo (staff) reported on Rapid Response, which is available as part of the agenda.

8. Next Meeting:

April 10, 2024, at 8:30 A.M.

Location: 3433 S. Higuera Street- Room 358, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

9. Adjournment:

Chair Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

I, Tony Girolo, Clerk of the Executive Committee of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held Wednesday, March 13, 2024, by the Executive Committee of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Tony Girolo, Executive Committee Clerk

Dated: 3/18/2024