1. Call to Order:
Chair Isiah Gomer: called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. Quorum.

2. Public Comment:
Chair Gomer: noted no public comment on public line.

3. Consent Items:
3.1 Approve the October 15, 2020 Minutes
Motion: Judy Mahan
Second: Chuck Jehle
Abstentions: None
Motion Passed Unanimously

4. AJCC Report:
4.1 Receive Report on AJCC Business Services
Jim Yancheson (committee member) presented the item which provided an update on the San Luis Obispo America's Job Center of CA (AJCC). Jim stated that the AJCC has started to work on their National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG). The AJCC has talked to local businesses looking to hire. The AJCC is developing a call list for that program. He also stated that traffic has increased slightly, and they have filled some vacant internal positions. The AJCC hopes to be fully staffed come the new year. The AJCC is open and prefers visitors to make appointments prior to their arrival to ensure capacity is not met. Jim stated that industry needs vary. Most job seekers, in the last 6 months or so, have been looking for more clerical types of work very little to no jobseekers with trades or construction background visiting the job center.

5. Information/Discussion:
5.1 Update Commercial Driver's License Prep Course
Isiah Gomer (chair) and Michael Specchierla (committee member) presented the item which provided an update on the status of the Commercial License Preparation Course. Isiah reported that since this groups last meeting, he and Michael have been in conversations with Hugo, who is responsible for transportation for the school district. According to Isiah, their conversations were around coming up with a plan, identifying a trainer, and developing cohorts that would hopefully train and employ interested candidate at the school district level. They would gain behind the wheel experience while employed at the school district, and then offering them options within other industries throughout the County who are also in need of licensed commercial drivers. Per Isiah, Hugo stated that he is in the process of hiring a trainer that has extensive experience and the goal is that they can get their plan moving forward. The problem now is that with the pandemic, and most schools currently being closed, there is no current demand for drivers, but they anticipate that once the pandemic is under control the plan will be very attainable. Michael (committee member) concurred. Dawn Boulanger (staff) asked if on-the-job training or internships
would be options for employer to taken on a less experienced driver on to help develop the skills. Michael (member) stated that WIOA funds would be a good option to explore for assistance in helping to fund this training and the employer needs.

5.2 Update on COVID-19 Small Business Grant and Discuss Survey
Diana Marin (staff) presented the item which included a brief update on the COVID-19 Small Business Grant that was launched on October 23, 2020. To date 23 applications have been received and 16 have been approved. Diana reiterated the grant guidelines and funding amounts. She stated that only those business with locations in the County are eligible. Application will continue to be accepted until funds are expended. Diana (staff) asked the group for feedback about putting out a post-grant survey and their help with putting it together. Isiah (chair) stated that he thought many businesses are currently impacted and may not be as responsive. Sarah Hayter (staff) suggested if a survey is conducted making it brief and preferably by phone to make it as short and simple as possible. Judy Mahan (member) stated that businesses are appreciative of us checking in post assistance. The group agreed to cooperate with assistance of conducting the grant. Diana said she will draft some questions and bring them back to the group.

5.3 Discuss Strategies for Rapid Response Outreach and Coordination and Reporting of Business Closures
Diana Marin (staff) presented the item. Diana stated that Rapid Response outreach and reporting has been difficult throughout the pandemic as most businesses in SLO County are smaller businesses (with under 50 employees) and are therefore not held to the WARN Act reporting requirements. She stated that tracking and reporting has been extremely difficult and that most of the closures and layoffs that are responded to reported via the media or staff and that a recent article published by the local paper stated that over 300 businesses in the city of San Luis Obispo had potentially closed since July of 2019. Diana is currently vetting the data with city officials, but at first glance, it appears that the data is only reporting businesses that had failed to renew their business license and not technically a business closure. Isiah (chair) stated that he had contacted the person in charge at the Atascadero and Paso Robles Press. He also stated he shared WDB info with them to help spread the word about local information and resources with their staff. Isiah also stated that he has had conversations with the Paso Chamber and that their unrenewed memberships were not good leads as many have not necessarily resulted in closures, but rather businesses attempting to save on costs. The council will continue to think of ways to assist with the identification of struggling businesses to share Rapid Response info.

6. Council Member Workforce Development Updates:
Chair Gomer: opened the floor to updates from the Committee membership Isiah Gomer, John Cascamo, Chuck Jehle, Judy Mahan and Michael Specchierla shared updates.

7. Next Meeting:
Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:00am-10:30am
Virtual Zoom Meeting

8. Adjournment:
Chair Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 10:02 A.M.
Diana Marin, Clerk of the Business Council of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held Thursday, December 17, 2020 by the Business Council of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Diana Marin, Business Council Clerk
Dated: December 18, 2020