

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

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting- <https://slohealth.zoom.us/j/98579656908?pwd=RDViTytDMmZ6ZG9DaHFBYVVFdjBUZz09>

Present: Verena Latona-Tahlman, Chuck Jehle, Judy Mahan, Kirk Coviello, John Cascamo, Michael Specchierla, Allison Schiavo

Absent:

Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Diana Marin

Guest: Lorna Hewitt

1. Call to Order:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: called the meeting to order at 9:01 P.M. **Quorum.**

2. Public Comment:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: noted no public comment on public line.

3. Consent Items:

3.1 Approve the June 18, 2021 Minutes

Motion: John Cascamo

Second: Kely Blackburn

Abstentions: None

Motion Passed Unanimously

4. AJCC Update:

4.1 Receive Report on AJCC Business Services

Allison Schiavo (member) presented the item which provided an update on the San Luis Obispo America's Job Center of CA (AJCC). She stated that there are currently 66 people enrolled in WIOA programs and 48 are seeking work. AJCC continues to see staff turnover, which is the same issues local employers are facing. Presenter was asked by Dawn Boulanger (staff) about interest in driving careers and training and what barriers were experienced by people interested in getting training. Ms. Schiavo stated that the travel to the Santa Maria Truck Driver Institute was not as much of a barrier as the travel to Salinas to test upon completion of the training. The AJCC does provide support to get folks to Salinas, however due to the COVID pandemic access to the DMV for testing had been challenging and although there are local DMV branches, the Salinas area is the best option for access to truck to take the test in.

5. Information/Discussion:

5.1 Receive Update on Commercial Driver's License Prep Course

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented the item for Michael Specchierla (member) due to sound issues. She provided an update on the status of the Commercial License Preparation Course and reported that in their last conversations with the Paso Robles School District they were looking to expand the school districts drivers course that they had in place. Paso School District has purchased a fleet of vans to transport students to avoid the commercial licensing process while still providing the mandated transportation for students. Ms. Boulanger asked that we relook at what the need is, is it access to training or upskilling to help employees gain the experience needed in the specific vehicles. Diana Marin (staff) stated that another barrier for both jobseekers and employers is

finding a way to get newly licensed commercial drivers the behind the wheel experience needed to fill the higher wage/larger vehicle positions. Often employers will not hire a newly licensed driver because of the liability issues resulting from a lack of behind the wheel experience. Dawn stated that we need to relook at what issue we want to tackle since we haven't made any progress. Staff to do employer engagement with local businesses and pull local (San Luis Obispo County and neighboring counties) labor market information on the Transportation industry as well as the Driver occupations to re-examine what the problem is. Chuckle Jehel (member) suggested that upon review of the data we come up with an action plan to broadcast solutions to the public. Allison Schiavo (member) to provide CalJOBS data to see who the jobseekers are too. John Cascamo (member) mentioned identifying a tipping point wage- a wage that is attractive and livable enough to undergo the training needed to get into the new career path.

5.2 Discuss AJCC Business Services Outreach Plan

Allison Schiavo (member) presented the item which was part of the agenda. Ms. Schiavo stated that staffing continues to be a struggle at the AJCC, however they have had some success with reverse On-the-Job Trainings (OJT) or Work Experience (WEX)- wherein an employer gives a potential candidate of interest a QR code to check for eligibility and enrolment. This would assist employers with subsidization of the employees' wages via WIOA and other funds. In the AJCCs experience with OJT and WEX placements they have found that the culture fit is sometimes the hardest need to find, this reverse referral method takes away some of the issues around culture fit, since it is the employer referring an applicant to the AJCC, they think would work well for them, rather than the AJCC guessing who might be a good fit for them. Ms. Schiavo also went over an outreach flier about the no-cost business services available at the AJCC which was included as part of the agenda and encouraged members to share within their networks. She asked members to contact her with suggestions to improve the flyer.

5.3 Receive Update of Round 2 COVID-19 Small Business Grant

Diana Marin (staff) presented the item which was part of the agenda. Ms. Marin reported that in the 3-week open application period from 4/26/2021 through 5/6/2021 63 applications were received for the COVID-19 Small Business Grant. Of the 63, 50 were in unincorporated areas of SLO County and 46 eligible businesses followed through and were funded. Shea also reported that of the recipients of the COVID-19 Small Business Grants 12 businesses were in Nipomo, 7 in Oceano, 6 in Avila Beach, and 5 in Cambria. Other recipient businesses were in Los Osos, Cayucos, Templeton, Creston, Shandon, Santa Margarita, San Simeon, and the unincorporated areas of Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles. Also, per Ms. Marin, the industries that the business recipients were identified to be in were as follows: 11 in the Other Services, 9 in Healthcare and Social Assistance, 6 in Accommodation and Food Service, 5 in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, and 4 in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting. There were also recipients in the Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation & Warehousing, and Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services industries. Lastly, Ms. Marin reported that a total of \$76,000 were issued in grant funds. 40 businesses employ 10 or less workers and received grant awards in the amount of \$1,500 each. 5 of the businesses employees 11-25 workers and received grant awards in the amount of \$2,500 each, and only on business employs over 26 workers and received a grant award of \$3,500.

6. Council Member Workforce Development Updates:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: opened the floor to updates from the Committee membership Chuck Jehle, John Cascamo, Kely Blackburn, Verena Latona-Tahlman, Judy Mahan, and Kirk Coviello shared updates.

7. Next Meeting:

October 21, 2021 9:00am-10:30am
Virtual Zoom Meeting

8. Adjournment:

Chair Latona-Tahlman: adjourned the meeting at 10:27 A.M.

I, 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, August 26, 2021 by the Business Council of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Diana Marin, Business Council Clerk

Dated: September 14, 2021