

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: 3433 S. Higuera Street- Room 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Present: Isiah Gomer, William Hills, Justin McIntire, Verena Latona-Tahlman

Absent: None

Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Sarah Hayter, Diana Marin

Guest: Dr. James Brescia, Christina Kuhn, Tammy Aguilera (phone-in)

1. Call to Order:

Chair Isiah Gomer: called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. **Quorum.**

2. Public Comment:

Chair Gomer: opened the floor for public comment period without response.

3. Consent Items:

3.1 Approve the March 9, 2022 Minutes

Motion: William Hills

Second: Verena Latona-Tahlman

Abstentions: None

Motions Passed Unanimously

4. Action Items:

4.1 a) Review and approve the vendor recommendation for the WIOA Youth Services RFP and

b) Direct Administrative Entity staff to commence contract negotiations

Sarah Hayter (staff) presented the item which is available as part of the agenda.

Motion: Justin McIntire

Second: Verena Latona-Tahlman

Abstentions: None

Motion Passed Unanimously

5. Information/Discussion Items:

5.1 Receive Update on ARPA COVID-19 Small Business Grant

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented the item informing committee members that the County of San Luis Obispo launched the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded COVID-19 Small Business Grant on April 1st. It was initially scheduled to close on April 30th, however due to an overwhelming number of applications it closed on April 6th. The Chamber of Commerce Business Services staff has been logging and tracking the applications and have received over 300 applications as of the April 6th closing date. The Chamber of Commerce Staff is currently reviewing all of the applications for completeness and will be working with eligible businesses to identify awardees.

Chair, Isiah Gomer: Speaks

6. Reports:

- a) **Chairman's Report:** Isiah Gomer (chair) reported out that there are over 200 individuals at the Cal Poly Workforce Development meeting. The meeting focused on childcare. Chair Gomer stated that there is an overwhelming demand for childcare due to lack of providers. Mr. Gomer also shared that Paso Robles High School is offering their students dual enrollment in Cuesta College courses and giving them work-based experience in the onsite preschool located at the high school.

Guest, Dr. James Brescia: Speaks

Staff, Dawn Boulanger: Speaks

- b) **WIOA Services Addressing Barriers to Employment:** Christina Kuhn (guest) shared that the AJCC continues to see increase in foot traffic, mostly dislocated workers. Most job seekers are struggling to find daycare. AJCC is working to identify flexible work and training options for job seekers facing this barrier. AJCC is also anticipating more enrollments/referrals from DSS into the ESE program. Ms. Kuhn also reported that they just hosted a Motivational Interviewing workshop that was a huge success with over one hundred attendees. Many attendees shared very positive feedback. Eckerd has implemented a Career Coach of the day to help explain services to walk-in traffic at the AJCC. EDD is now officially open and assisting individuals at the AJCC. Ms. Kuhn stated that they are receiving a lot of calls from employers who are looking to fill vacant positions.

Chair, Isiah Gomer: Speaks
Staff, Dawn Boulanger: Speaks

- c) **Staff Report:** Dawn Boulanger (staff) reported that there are two grants the WDB is working on- one is a \$2.5 million dollar grant the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). This grant was applied for with SLO Partners and the Santa Barbara Workforce Development Board (WDB) to increase the apprenticeships and add a new program in SLO County and help develop apprenticeship programs in Santa Barabra County. The other is a regional grant through the State WDB around collaboration with community colleges. We have applied with the Santa Barbara WDB, Cuesta College, Allan Hancock College, and Santa Barbara City College to look at having employer driven curriculum through adult education, English as a second language (ESL), career technical education (CTE), or community-based education programs to have employer driven short term occupational training based on employer need. The chancellor's office will also be adding \$10 million dollars in funding to any awarded entities. Cuesta College is set to launch the AMP mechanic training this fall. Sarah Hayter (staff) announced that she will be leaving the WDB and taking a position with the County Administrator's Office. Ms. Boulanger mentioned that the vacant MIS Administrator position has been filled and is set to start on April 18th and DSS will work on filling the Program Manager position that Sarah Hayter will be vacating. Robust efforts will be made to fill the position as there are few workforce development professionals in the area.

7. Administrative Entity Updates:

- 7.1 **Receive and Review Fiscal Budget Update: Dawn Boulanger (Staff) reported on the Fiscal Budget which is available as an addendum to the agenda.**
- 7.2 **Receive and Rapid Response Report: Diana Marin (staff) reported on Rapid Response which is available as part of the agenda.**

Chair, Isiah Gomer: Speaks
Staff, Dawn Boulanger: Speaks
Guest, Christina Kuhn: Speaks
Member, William Hills: Speaks

8. Board Member Workforce Development Updates:

Chair Gomer: opened the floor to updates from the Executive Committee membership.

Verena Latona-Tahlman (member) stated that the Cannon Corporation is still hiring and that they have a current admin support vacancy.

William Hills (member) reported that United Staffing is also hiring. They currently have between 100-120 open positions in SLO County.

Justin McIntire (member) Department of Rehabilitation has a couple of openings locally.

Isiah Gomer (chair) shared that the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Gala in May where they will honor two Roblan's of the Year. He also stated that the Employer Advisory Council will begin in-person events for the remainder of the year.

9. Next Meeting:

June 8, 2022 at 8:00 A.M.

Location: 3433 S. Higuera Street- Room 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

10. Adjournment:

Chair Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 10:45 A.M.

I, Diana Marin, 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 Thursday, April 7, 2022, by the Executive Committee of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Diana Marin, Executive Committee Clerk

Dated: April 15, 2022