

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
of San Luis Obispo County

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, May 07, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Location: Atascadero Chamber of Commerce, 6907 El Camino Real #4, CA 93422

Present: Isiah Gomer, Josh Cross, Ian Journey, Cheryl London, , Justin McIntire, Veronica Orozco, Dr. Aubrey Priest, Angela Rayfield, Mark Simonin, Ryan Stanley, Verena Latona-Tahlman, Angela Toomey,
Absent: William Hills, David Baldwin, Danielle McIntire, Julie Sinton Pruniski, Patrick Woolpart
Guests: Aaron Moon, Jennifer Campos, Alexis VanPelt, Addison Gregory, Erica Stuckey, Cheryl Ruck, Cara Chen, Troy Thiggins
Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Diana Marin, Eddie Hernandez

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Chair Gomer called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM **Quorum reached**

2. Public Comment:

Chair Gomer: No public comment

3. Consent Items:

3.1 Approve the February 05, 2026, Minutes

3.2 Review and Approve WDB Member Reappointment

The Board approved consent items 3.1 and 3.2 in a single motion

Motion: Josh Cross

Second: Justin McIntire

Motion Passed Unanimously

Public Comment: N/A

4. Action Items:

4.1 Approve Career Team as the Recommended Vendor for PY 26-27 WIOA Title I One-Stop Operation, Adult, Dislocated Worker & Rapid Response Services

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet. Board Member Josh Cross recused himself from the room after the item was presented, but prior to debate and voting by the board. Mr. Cross abstained from all related discussions and voting.

Motion: Ryan Stanley

Second: Mark Simonin

Motion Passed Unanimously

Public Comment: N/A

4.2 Approve Eckerd Connects as the Recommended Vendor for PY 26-27 WIOA Youth Services Contract.

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

Motion: Justin McIntire

Second: Dr. Aubrey Priest

Motion Passed Unanimously

Public Comment: N/A

5. Discussion Items:

5.1 Special Grants Update

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

5.2 Receive FY 25-26 Q3 Eckerd WIOA Youth Contract Performance Report

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

5.3 Receive FY 25-26 Q3 Eckerd WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker Contract Performance Report

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

5.4 Receive FY 25-26 Q3 Eckerd Rapid Response Contract Performance Report

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

6. Administrative Entity Update:

6.1 Receive Director Update

WDB Director Dawn Boulanger reported that the Workforce Development Board has successfully secured a lease for a new Career Center facility at 285 South Street following the sale of its previous location. After navigating the required county and funding approval processes, the center is expected to relocate in mid-June and resume full operations on July 1. The expanded facility will enhance the Board's ability to deliver workforce development to Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and CalWORKs programs to better meet the needs of the community.

Ms. Boulanger also provided an update on federal WIOA reauthorization efforts, noting that proposed legislation could significantly increase required training expenditures while reducing local funding levels and workforce system flexibility. While these changes may create operational and staffing challenges, they may also present opportunities to access new short-term workforce development trainings and grant funding.

Additionally, Ms. Boulanger shared information regarding upcoming HR1 changes scheduled to take effect in June, which will expand CalFresh work requirements and may impact an estimated 3,000–3,500 San Luis Obispo County residents. The changes are expected to increase demand for Career Center services and will require enhanced collaboration with community partners, along with expanded tracking and documentation of participant activities. No additional funding has been identified to support implementation of these new federal requirements.

6.2 Receive and Review Fiscal Update

Dawn Boulanger (staff) provided WDB with an update on the Fiscal Budget, which is available and part of the agenda packet.

7. Reports:

a.) Executive Committee and Chairperson Report

Chairperson Isiah Gomer reported that the Executive Committee meetings scheduled for March 11, 2026, April 08, 2026, and April 15, 2026 were canceled;

Therefore, there was nothing to report to the Workforce Development Board at this time. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., to be held at the Department of Social Services, 3433 S. Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California.

b.) Board Member Workforce Development Updates

Chairperson Isiah Gomer reported that he recently attended the Wake Up Paso event, which was well attended and provided valuable updates from local leaders and state representatives. A key takeaway was the increased auditing of I-9 employment forms, with businesses encouraged to review their records carefully to ensure all required documentation is complete and avoid potential penalties. Mr. Gomer also attended Cal Poly's Economic Development Committee meeting, where discussions focused on workforce opportunities within the maritime industry, the importance of developing skilled talent pipelines, and California's growing energy demands as technology and AI industries continue to expand.

Board Member Ian Journey shared that SLO for Home organization is currently seeking job training opportunities for its clients. Board Member Mark Simonin reported that the new NRC licensing process for Diablo Canyon is expected to create a significant number of employment opportunities within San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Simonin also noted that the offshore wind project remains on hold under the current federal administration. Board Member Ryan Stanley advised that construction projects along Highway 101 have begun and that motorists should anticipate significant traffic delays, with project completion estimated to take approximately three years. Board Member Josh Cross shared that the Atascadero Chamber recently hosted its annual Junior CEO Program, which saw 115 student registrations in 2026, a substantial increase from 80 participants in 2025. He also reported that the event featured 80 exhibitor booths this year, compared to 40 booths in 2025.

8. Next Meeting:

August 06, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Morris & Garritano 1122 Laurel Lane, San Luis Obispo, CA

9. Adjournment:

Chairperson Isiah Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 10:29 AM

I, Eddie Hernandez, Clerk 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 on Thursday, May 07, 2026, by the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Eddie Hernandez, WDB Program Review Specialist

Dated: 05/15/2026