

Workforce Investment Board

Executive Committee

Minutes of June 10, 2020

Members Present: Ananda Sweet, Robin Bartholow, Judy Coffey, Steve Herron*, Roy Hurd, Stephen Jackson, and Scott Kincaid

Absent: Ed Barr and Michael Pickens

Staff: Katie Greaves, Patricia Andrews, Jessica Taylor, Sharona Elfus-Schatzkin, Katie Stohlmann, and Judy Oates

I. Public Comment

None.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2020; and Review Action Items

The May 13, 2020 action items were completed.

Motion to approve Minutes of May 13, 2020: Roy Hurd /s/ Judy Coffey. Approved (Ananda Sweet, Robin Bartholow, Judy Coffey, Roy Hurd, Stephen Jackson, and Scott Kincaid.) There were no “nay” votes. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.

Steve Herron joined the meeting.

III. WIB Business

A. Membership

No new membership requests to review. Kristyn Byrne resigned after the May WIB meeting.

B. Attendance Report

Mike Pickens has missed two WIB meetings due to staffing and urgent needs at his office.

Action: Ananda will reach out to Mike to encourage him to name a proxy to attend meetings when he is not available.

Action: Staff to correct the attendance report, Chris Knerr attended the May meeting but was not able to unmute his phone.

IV. Operations Update

Auxiliary aids, services, and versions are available to individuals with disabilities upon request by calling (707) 565-8500.

A. Local Employment Data

Katie shared data from Chimera Economics regarding COVID impacts. Highlights included the labor force participation rate, impact of payroll protection programs, and vulnerability scores by area and by industry. Sonoma County is in a higher risk category due to our main industries.

Cal Fresh and unemployment claims have gone down but are still significantly higher than our normal average.

B. Resuming Job Seeker and Training Services

Job Link has had an increase in calls and activities as we begin to do more virtual customer service with a goal of serving the same numbers of clients daily as before COVID.

Staff have secured a new grant for \$270K that allows us to provide a one-time payment of \$400 or \$800 per person help for those who are not able to work due to illness, underlying conditions, caring for another, and/or lack of childcare. These funds are to help with home utilities, telework equipment, car payment, transportation, or other supportive services. Bills can be retroactive to April. We are expediting applications as we receive them as the grant ends in September. If you have any questions reach out to Patti Andrews directly at 565-7204.

Q. Do applicants need to be 18 years old?

A. They need to be responsible for a household.

It was suggested that staff reach out to SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) to have them assist in getting the word about by sharing the information with people working in small businesses.

Action: Staff will send out a flyer about the COVID one-time payment grant to WIB members to share in their circles. *Done*

The Business Services Team is continuing to do outreach to employers, but at a reduced rate as they concentrate more on individual services. The cohorts they are working on include the following.

- The healthcare cohort with Sunrise Senior Living Facility that was put on hold due to COVID.
- An English Language Learner cohort to be held in the fall.
- Potential cohort for the youth in our programs.

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- Recruiting more companies through the EDB with training needs to do cohorts for business owners who are looking to train staff to be able to open safely.

If WIB members hear about businesses needing training to reopen we would be happy to explore options with them. Please have them reach out to Shaydra Ennis at 565-8086.

Action: Shaydra will prepare the talking points on the training resources and send them out to WIB members.

Q. Is this offer of training available for non-profits?

A. Yes.

Q. When you say you can assist with equipment or training – do you have equipment like masks?

A. No, but we can help pay for that type of thing.

Katie shared that with offices being closed and all the restrictions around COVID our storefront is our website now. One of the grants we received is to overhaul the WIB website, and invest in CalJOBS software that is customized to Job Link that is more intuitive, friendlier and integrated. We are planning for this all to go live in July.

C. Other

- Robin reported the North Bay Construction Corps had to stop their trainings on March 17. Students missed two thirds of the program, did not learn how to use power tools, and Boot Camp was cancelled. Classes are difficult to plan as one sick student would shut down the whole training. She is now trying to reach out to businesses in construction directly to see if they will hire students on a temporary basis using training funds to subsidize training time, and to consider taking them on permanently if they work out.
- Roy noted there are funds available for institutions that had to stop training and recommended Job Link look into applying for those funds.

V. Prepare for May WIB Meeting Agenda

Discussed the following options for the July WIB agenda.

- Numbers and data.
- Everyone agreed these are important and would like to see more information similar to what Katie shared today.

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- Continue to share data on a sustained basis to watch for trends and/or see if things begin to level off.
- Drill down on the data more for Construction, Healthcare, and Hospitality.
- Invite speakers from the three focus industries to discuss what is driving the data.
 - Consider doing a panel report/discussion with someone from the wine, hotel, and restaurant industries to talk about the COVID impact and the changes they are making. Steve offered to reach out to Vince Albano of the Mary’s Pizza Shack family about presenting via zoom.
- Discuss picketing and the issues or non-issues for business. if there is interest in this.
- Share training information.
 - Highlight the trainings that have been on hold that will be available to the community soon. This includes the TIP program, Job Link services being offered online, and the Business Services Team services to be offered online.
- Highlight how Sonoma County can change and adapt to meet the challenges. We want to keep it a positive message.

VI. Other Items

Katie announced that Robin Bartholow passed the bar to practice law. ***Congratulations Robin!***
 Roy announced that Empire College School of Law just produced their 16th judge.

VII. Upcoming WIB Executive Committee Meetings and WIB Meetings

July 8, 2020	Executive Session:	2:45 pm to 3:00 pm	Via Zoom Teleconference
July 8, 2020	Full Session:	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Via Zoom Teleconference

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.