

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SPECIAL POPULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 – 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members	Present
Jonathan Weldy (Chair)	X
Cinnamon Alvarez	X
*Stephani Congdon	
*Russell Degnan	X
*Dan Flores	
Lowell King	X
Scott Kuethen	X
*Yukiko Long	
Louie Lopez	X
*Clint Miller	X
*Deborah Napier	X
*Pauline Pina	
*Jessica Rodriguez	X
Shannon Shannon	X
*Terrance Stone	X
*Linda Titus	X

**Public Members*

Staff to WDB	Present
Devra Bell	X
Brad Gates	X
Mariann Johnson	X

OPENING

- 1) **Chair called meeting to order** at 10:35 AM
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** – Russell Degnan led the Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) **Introductions** – The Chair led the introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 4) **Comments from the General Public in Attendance** – No Public Comments

CONSENT AGENDA

5) Approve Minutes from October 12, 2022, Special Populations Committee Meeting

The Chair called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Louie Lopez motioned; Lowell King seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

PRESENTATION

6) State of California Sub Minimum Wage Law

Robert Loeun led the presentation and provided the background of subminimum wage for employees with disabilities. He also reviewed SB639, which would end the policy that allowed businesses with special licenses to pay individuals with disabilities a subminimum wage for their work. By January 1, 2025, SB639 would make it illegal to pay an employee with physical or mental disabilities less than the legal minimum wage. Mr. Loeun also provided an overview of the qualifications to become eligible for services through the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). The members discussed DOR's partnerships with other agencies; connections with chambers; marketing needs; and looking at career fairs that focus on this special population.

7) Young Visionaries

Mariann Johnson introduced Terrance Stone, CEO of the Young Visionaries, which was founded in 2001, who, alongside Community Action Partnerships, work with 5000 residents each year, with wrap around services covering 7 core community programs: mental health, academic support, workforce development, outreach/community engagement, mentoring, violence intervention/prevention, and referral to access of services. He showed a video of their forklift class, which currently includes an individual that is 16 years old and the oldest is 81 years old. Mr. Stone also reviewed their system/strategy of work, community events and their "Spread Your Wings" mentoring/cognitive life skills program. Discussions included the need to add more resources to the high desert community, as they are currently over capacity; finding mentors for the program, which is primarily through word of mouth or through their events, social media or through the school system.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

8) Special Populations Goals

Mariann Johnson provided updates to the current goals of the Special Populations Committee including: additional funding coming for the Prison to Employment program; our funding request for the Disability Navigation Program, where we can hire two contract employees to cover the workload; the completion of six letters of support since the last reporting period; and the completion of the employee toolkit. She also noted going forward, the goals of the committee will be realigned to a fiscal year reporting period.

9) Expungement Outcomes

This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Louie Lopez motioned; Russell Degnan seconded the motion. None opposed; Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM

The next WDB Special Populations meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM and will be held at the WDD Administration Office, 290 North D Street, 6th Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415.



Devra Bell, WDB Secretary