

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**WDD Administrative Office**  
**290 North D Street, Suite 600, San Bernardino, CA 92415**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Members</b>				<b>Staff to WDB</b>	
	<b>Present</b>		<b>Present</b>		<b>Present</b>
Will Sterling <i>(Chair)</i>	X	Scott Kuethen	X	Devra Bell	X
Orlando Acevedo		Robert Loemun	X	Brad Gates	X
Cinnamon Alvarez	X	Louie Lopez		Sophie Curtis	X
Mauricio Arellano	X	Dale Marsden	X		
Bill Blankenship	X	Lina Montes			
Ricardo Cisneros		Tawnya Rhoades-Hensley	X	<b>WDD Staff</b>	
Phil Cothran		Henry Shannon		Fred Burks	X
Cheri Greenlee	X	Shannon Shannon	X	Curtis Compton	X
Lowell King		Jonathan Weldy	X	Mariann Johnson	X

**OPENING**

- 1) **Call Meeting to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance:** Jonathan Weldy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) **Introductions:** The Chair introduced two new members to the General Board: Mauricio Arellano and Bill Blankenship, who each provided their background and experience.
- 4) **Success Stories:**
  - a) **AJCC Client:** Jennifer Sowards, Manager of the High Desert AJCC office, presented the success story of Brion Morris, who was unable to attend the meeting.
  - b) **Business Services:** Sal Monica, Business Services Representative, introduced Susan Baker from 5e Advanced Materials, Inc.
  - c) **Youth:** Russell Degnan from Operation New Hope provided an overview of their organization and introduced Rhonda, who is the Case Manager of Emiliania Lerma, the Youth success story.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **5) Comments from the General Public in Attendance**

There were no public comment cards presented at the meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6) Approval of Minutes from the May 10, 2023 Workforce Development Board General Meeting**

The Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dale Marsden motioned; Cinnamon Alvarez seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **7) Ratify Approval of Program Support for State of the County Event in the amount of \$15,000**

Brad Gates provided an overview of the item. The Chair requested a motion to approve. Cinnamon Alvarez motioned; Bill Blankenship seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **8) Approve contract amendments with the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, Fontana Chamber of Commerce, Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce, Redlands Chamber of Commerce and Black Chamber of Commerce - Inland Empire to increase the contract term by nine months and increase the contract amount by \$75,000 per vendor.**

Brad Gates provided an overview of the item and discussed the outcomes of the pilot project. He noted the purpose of the item was to extend the current contracts to complete a full 2-year period. At the conclusion of the 2 years, a decision will be made to determine if this project will continue. The Chair requested a motion to approve. Cinnamon Alvarez motioned; Scott Kuethen seconded the motion. Shannon Shannon recused. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **9) Approve contract with Transfr for a contract term of one-year and a not-to-exceed contract amount up of to \$20,000 to acquire Transfr VR headsets and obtain a one-year subscription to enable WIOA youth participants to kinesthetically engage in career exploration through virtual reality technology.**

Brad Gates provided an overview of the item. A discussion ensued regarding the equipment and whether we own the headsets, which we would not. The headsets would be provided to each of the Youth providers and once the pilot ends, an evaluation would be done to determine the outcomes. The Chair requested a motion to approve. Scott Kuethen motioned; Tawnya Rhoades-Hensley seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **10) Committee Updates**

- **Finance:** Shannon Shannon noted the reports were reviewed during the Finance Committee meeting in July. Brad Gates reviewed the reports for the General Board members.
- **EDBR:** Cinnamon Alvarez introduced two new members of the EDBR Committee: Ryan Rainbolt, Chief Executive Officer of Enchanged Education, LLC; and JD Wang, Chief Executive Officer and President of eRubber, LLC. In addition, she reported on the Economic Recovery Business Services Outreach Support Project; EDBR Goals, Hiring Events and the Business Services' Dashboard.

- **Youth:** Shannon Shannon reported on a presentation by Carol Tsushima from San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools; our current Youth Goals; the addition of two new Youth to the committee; Youth Provider stats; updates on Roadtrip Nation; and resource updates for Youth receiving Medi-Cal.
- **Special Populations:** Jonathan Weldy reported on the Department of Labor's Disability Navigator Grant, along with a presentation from Michi Story, Workforce Development Specialist, who is the new Disability Navigator. He also discussed the Special Populations' Goals; updates on the Prison to Employment program with Riverside County; and provided updates on the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships grant.

### **11) Legislative Updates**

Meghan Kidwell, Legislative Analyst, provided updates. She noted more people are retiring than we can get those jobs filled and the workforce is not supporting some of the current bills. She noted the government funding will be running out in 50-60 days unless a continuing resolution is approved. WIOA reauthorization is coming soon and she encouraged input of needs/wishes prior to that time. Lastly, she noted there is a budget deficit at the State level and a special session will be scheduled for December to address the deficit and any potential funding cuts.

### **12) County Report**

Brad Gates updated the members on the State of the County event, which will take place on September 27<sup>th</sup>. He reported the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board was designated as a High Performing Board by the California Workforce Development Board. Lastly, he reminded everyone that Board reappointment letters will be issued on or around October 1<sup>st</sup> from the Clerk of the Board.

### **13) Chair Report**

Will Sterling noted a Nomination Ad Hoc Committee would be created soon and he will assign a Chair to oversee that process. If anyone is interested in being part of that Ad Hoc committee, they were encouraged to reach out to the Chair. He also reiterated the importance of maintaining high attendance levels for these meetings to ensure quorums are met. He encouraged the new members to participate in at least one committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Weldy motioned; Bill Blankenship seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM

The next Workforce Development Board General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 12:30 pm, located at the WDD Administrative Office, 290 North D Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415.



---

Devra Bell, WDB Secretary