

BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 14, 2023

MEETING SUMMARY

STAFF: Thoo, Tran, Walter, Sanchez

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Alan Takahashi called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Benavidez (arrived 3:05), McGrath, Shah, Takahashi, Koepp-Baker (ex officio)

Absent: Chao, Smith

II. OPEN FORUM

There was no public comment.

III. BUSINESS

A. Minutes Approval

Mr. Benavidez moved and Mr. Takahashi seconded approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2022, Business Services Committee meeting. The committee approved unanimously.

B. Manager's Summary

Strategic Engagement Manager Lawrence Thoo provided a summary of the issues on the meeting agenda.

C. Employer Engagement

- 1. Layoff Activity** – Business Services Lead Analyst Huong Tran gave a year-to-date report on Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) activity in work2future's service area and subsequent Rapid Response efforts. Ms. Tran provided detail about the 22 WARN notices and 2,703 impacted workers within the San Jose-Silicon Valley Local Workforce Development Area, work2future service area, since the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2022. She noted an uptick in layoff activity in January and February of this year and described work2future efforts to provide Rapid Response services. There was some discussion comparing the increase in layoff activity versus the relatively stable unemployment rate as well as possible shifts in hiring trends.
- 2. Work Experience** – Ms. Tran highlighted a focused effort by staff to recruit employers to support work experience opportunities in the Youth Program. Strategic Engagement Project Manager Deanna Walter reported on a new Earn-and-Learn pilot program giving Youth participants an opportunity to earn wages while learning a new digital skill.
- 3. WAF 9.0 Career Accelerator Update** – Business Services Specialist Fidel Sanchez updated the Committee on the status of the final pilot of the advanced manufacturing career accelerator program. Five participants were selected and began their work at Flex Interconnect Technologies, Inc. on January 30, 2023. The pilot is scheduled to end on March 31, 2023.

D. Services

1. **Career Fairs** – Ms. Tran provided an update on career fairs planned for the remainder of the current program year, including a youth-focused event by San José Works on March 9, 2023, a collaboration with San José City College on April 25, 2023, and a manufacturing event in partnership with Manufacture: San José in June 2023.
2. **Incumbent Worker Training** – Ms. Walter gave a status report on the Incumbent Worker Training program, noting the first customer agreement as well as ongoing outreach efforts.

E. Business Intelligence

Staff reports and discussion, including without limitation

1. **Grants** – Mr. Thoo detailed recent grants with a business focus in which work2future is a partner, including two in the Community Economic Resilience Fund Economic Development Pilot and the Racial Equity and Recovery Partnership. There was some discussion about the selection process for organizations connected to the grant programs.
2. **Post-Pandemic Crisis Economy** – This agenda item was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.
3. **Labor Market Update** – Strategic Engagement Manager Thoo reported on the status of the labor market in Santa Clara County and the San José-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The unemployment rate in the MAS was 2.1 percent in December 2022, down from a revised 2.4 percent in November 2022, and below the year-ago estimate of 2.9 percent, according to the Employment Development Department’s Labor Market Information Division. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 3.7 percent for California and 3.3 percent for the nation during the same period. The unemployment rate was 2.0 percent in Santa Clara County. Total employment for the month in the MSA, which also includes San Benito County, remained flat, with a net increase of 300 jobs to reach 1,195,900. There was some discussion about the deployment of Rapid Response resources within the MSA.

F. Member’s Roundtable

Committee members shared thoughts and experiences about a variety of topics. Of note, a possible convening of regional healthcare providers and community college training partners to discuss industry trends and concerns.

IV. OTHER

Mr. Thoo reminded the Committee that the City of San José will return to an in-person format for Committee and Board meetings beginning in March 2023.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Takahashi adjourned the meeting at 4:37 pm.

Draft summary prepared by D. Walter, reviewed by L. Thoo.