

BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE
October 11, 2022
MEETING SUMMARY

STAFF: Tran, Sanchez, Thoo, Walter

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair George Chao called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Chao, Taunk (observing only), Smith, Koepp-Baker (ex officio)

Quorum was not present. Meeting proceeded with discussion only.

II. OPEN FORUM

There was no general public comment.

III. BUSINESS

A. Minutes Approval

Due to a lack of quorum, minutes were not approved. Approval of the minutes of the August 30, 2022, Business Services Committee meeting will be revisited in the scheduled Business Services Committee meeting on December 13, 2022.

B. Employer Engagement

Staff reports and discussion, including without limitation

- 1. Layoff Activity** – Lead Business Services Analyst Huong Tran gave an update on recent layoff activity in the region and work2future’s Rapid Response efforts. The first of two recent WARN notices was for G&C Staffing with 66 impacted employees. Ms. Tran noted that 5 employees attended an online Rapid Response orientation session. The second WARN notice was for Onsemi with 88 impacted workers. This company is working with a third-party agency to handle outplacement services.
- 2. WAF 9.0 Career Accelerator Update** – Business Services Specialist Fidel Sanchez gave an update on efforts to launch a third pilot for this program. Mr. Sanchez is wrapping up discussions with EMD Electronics and hopes that legal and HR hurdles can be cleared for a November launch. He noted that two additional companies are in talks for a possible early 2023 launch.

C. Services

- 1. Career Fairs** – Ms. Tran reported on the San Jose Career Expo, held on September 23, 2022, including preliminary counts of participating employers, resource providers, and job seekers. She highlighted several employers engaged in on-site hiring at the event, as well as other positive feedback. Ms. Tran told the Committee about a Holiday Job Fair hosted by San Jose Works at the Eastridge Shopping Mall. She also noted an upcoming effort in partnership with San Jose City College, scheduled for November 9, 2022, at the college.
- 2. Incumbent Worker Training** – Project Manager Deanna Walter gave a status report on the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program. Ms. Walter shared that all legal reviews have been completed and that program details are available on the work2future website. She discussed plans for a larger email outreach campaign, targeting recent work2future business clients as well as prospective new businesses.

D. Business Intelligence

- 1. July 2022 Labor Market Summary** – Strategic Engagement Manager Thoo reported on the status of the labor market in Santa Clara County and the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). He noted many mixed signals about the overall national economy. Unemployment rates rose slightly: the reported unemployment rate for the MSA in August was 2.4%, up from a revised rate of 2.2% in July; the reported unemployment rate for the County in August was 2.3%, up from a rate of 2.1% in July. Within the County, labor force participation rates have surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in February 2020 and total employment numbers within the MSA continue to increase. Mr. Thoo discussed employment numbers within work2future’s priority industry sectors and indicated ongoing evaluation to determine if changes should be made to reflect local trends. Regarding employer demand, Mr. Thoo detailed statistics comparing unique job postings in 2021 and 2022. He noted a decrease in unique job postings for the first time in 12 months, indicating a possible softening of the job market.

E. Member’s Roundtable

Committee members shared thoughts and experiences about a variety of topics: concerns about possible upcoming layoff and hiring cycles, a disconnect between layoffs at high-tech companies and outsized hiring needs in entry-level roles, and a migration of workers out of the area due to new work-from-home trends.

IV. OTHER

Mr. Chao invited committee members to a manufacturing roundtable taking place as part of Manufacturing Week.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chao adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.

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