

BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 13, 2021
3:30 pm

MINUTES

Staff: Azevedo, Thoo, Tran, Woodworth

Guests: Emily Rosenberg, Social Policy Research Associates; Renee Pierce, Senior Economic Development Analyst.
State of California, Employment Training Panel (ETP)

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Chao called the Zoom meeting to order at 3:34 pm

Roll Call

Present: Chao, Flynn, McGrath (left at 4:30pm), Smith (left at 4:34pm), Takahashi

Arrived post Roll Call: Batra (3:38 pm)

Absent: Gomez, Koepp-Baker

II. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Chao remarked on the goals of the meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Minutes Approval

ACTION: Mr. Flynn moved, Mr. Takahashi seconded, and the committee unanimously approved by show of hands the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Business Services Committee meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Reports

Staff reported on various matters of interest to the committee, including reduction in layoff response activity since the committee's March meeting (one WARN only), the upcoming joint career fair with San Jose City College on April 28, 29, & 30, the upcoming Evolve Manufacturing-Ohlone College Earn-and-Learn pilot project "graduation" for 22 participants, most of whom will be staying on as employees, and the 19 employers signed up for the Facebook digital marketing training and work experience project. They also reported on preliminary findings from a survey of the impact of COVID pandemic on minority businesses being conducted by the Latino Business Association and the City of San Jose. Strategic Engagement Manager Thoo also reported on a new recession-relief jobs program known as Resilience Corps, which was proposed by San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo in the Mayor's March Budget Message.

B. Workforce Development in an Era of Automation, AI and COVID-19

Ms. Emily Rosenberg, Social Policy Research Associates (SPRA), reported on research thus far targeting SBDC, Latino Business Foundation, intermediary organizations outreaching to Vietnamese businesses,

other small businesses, San Jose State University and Santa Clara University to better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local workforce and economy. SPRA hopes to have most of this research done by mid-May before the San Jose City Council has its budget study sessions. Ms. Rosenberg also scheduled interviews with each of the committee members in attendance to better understand their industry sectors.

C. Committee Workplan

Chair Chao led the committee in a discussion to establish areas of focus and priorities for the committee's workplan. Committee members agreed that the focal areas of the workplan should include business intelligence, employer engagement, recruiting services and Product/Service development. Mr. Thoo introduced Ms. Renee Pierce of the state Employment Training Panel (ETP) who discussed low-cost employee training support available to employers and the Panel's interest in improving access for small and medium sized businesses through the use of multiple employer contracts with intermediary organizations like workforce boards. Mr. Thoo noted that ETP resources might enhance work2future's capacity to support incumbent worker training. Committee members began discussion of mapping out a timeline and goals to accomplish this calendar year. They also decided that an email would be sent asking committee members to agree to monthly 90-minute meetings instead of 60-minute meetings.

VI. OTHER

Chair Chao announced that the Business Services Committee needs new non-board members per WIOA and work2future bylaws. Suggestions should be forwarded to Mr. Thoo.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Chao adjourned the meeting at 4:43 pm.

Draft minutes prepared by K. Azevedo, reviewed by L. Thoo