

BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE

August 10, 2021
3:00 pm

MINUTES

Staff: Azevedo, Pham, Thoo, Tran

Guest: Camdyn Carter, Business Services & Training Supervisor, Equus Workforce Solutions

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Chao called the Zoom meeting to order at 3:03 pm

Roll Call

Present: Chao, Batra, Koepp-Baker, McGrath, Takahashi

Absent: Flynn, Gomez, Smith

II. OPEN FORUM

An email from Veronica S.B. regarding her difficult experience trying to enroll for services with work2future was read into the record.

III. BUSINESS

A. Minutes Approval

ACTION: Ms. Koepp-Baker moved, Mr. Batra seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the minutes of the July 13, 2021, Business Services Committee meeting.

B. Employer Engagement

1. **July Job Fair** – Camdyn Carter, Equus Business Services Supervisor, reported on the in-person job fair held at the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center on Saturday, July 31, 2021. Over 50 job seekers, 12 employers and 2 partners were in attendance.
2. **Facebook Digital Marketing Internships** — Analyst Nguyen Pham reported that young adults have been placed in digital internships with diverse, COVID-impacted CBOs and small businesses in San Jose.
3. **Resilience Corps** — Mr. Pham shared a list of small businesses that will be served by Resilience Corps, a COVID-response employment assistance project proposed by San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and approved by the City Council. Work2future is leading the business recovery pathway, working in partnership with Goodwill Industries and the Foundation for California Community Colleges to provide four weeks of paid training and a 22-week paid internship. Mr. Pham announced that the student interns will begin their training with a webinar on Friday, August 13, and they will be matched with a small business after the completion of training.

C. Services

1. **Incumbent Worker Training** – Strategic Engagement Manager Thoo reviewed the Employment Development Department’s Workforce Services Directive on Incumbent Worker Training. He explained that local board policies can adopt local policies that customize some aspects of the state directive to reflect local circumstances. Mr. Thoo also explained how this training is usually used by employers to either upskill employees or for layoff aversion. Committee discussion ensued and further discussion on how work2future might move forward with incumbent worker training will take place at the next committee meeting.
2. **Employer Demand-Driven Cohort Training Pilot** – Mr. Thoo announced a grant funded research & development project using a state Workforce Accelerator Fund grant with the purpose of creating a gateway to advanced manufacturing careers for underrepresented communities. The plan is to have cohorts of 5 participants and to create a model where work2future could merge WEX and training funds in the future. Cobham is our lead employer partner, and the plan is to add several other employers to this pilot. Evergreen Valley College will work with Cobham and the other employers to design the curriculum and we hope to roll this out in the Fall. There will be 2 more grant funded cohorts rolled out next year.

D. Business Intelligence

Staff reported on various matters of interest to the committee, including:

1. **June Labor Market Summary** — Strategic Engagement Manager Thoo reviewed an updated version of the June Labor Market Information Summary included in the agenda packet. The June unemployment rate in our MSA edged up slightly to 5.2% as more individuals returned to the labor force. The retail and hospitality sectors are still recovering. Their recovery is hampered by low labor participation rates fueled by low pay, hazardous working conditions, and better opportunities in other sectors. Discussion among committee members ensued.
2. **Layoff Activity Report** – Analyst Huong Tran informed the committee that there have been no WARN notices in July and none so far in August 2021. Ms. Tran also mentioned that her team was working with 3 companies laying off starting this Fall into next year: Boston Scientific, Microchip and TE Connectivity. TE Connectivity is the first company since the pandemic began that is hosting in person Rapid Response sessions for laid-off employees. Ms. Tran also noted that laid off employees in this sector are in high demand and retention is a big issue.

E. Workplan

Mr. Thoo announced the following items for future committee meetings:

1. Incumbent worker training will be discussed further at the September 14, 2021, meeting.
2. Committee Meeting frequency past October
3. Business intelligence (September meeting)

F. Other Staff Reports

1. Kirk staff have moved back to the center and anticipate offering services to public in late August.
2. Mr. Thoo informed committee of new training organization, Merit America with a different business model (participants pay for training after they find employment) and they are being sponsored locally by the Sobrato Foundation.

IV. Other - None

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Chao adjourned the meeting at 4:21 pm.

*Draft minutes prepared by K. Azevedo, reviewed by L. Thoo
All votes were by roll call, unless otherwise indicated*