

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

June 16, 2022
MINUTES

Staff: Melchor, Mallari, Thoo, Walter

Guest: Sead Eminovic, International Rescue Committee (IRC), San Jose Director

NOTE: All votes were by roll call, unless otherwise indicated.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The meeting via Zoom Webinar was called to order at 9:32 am by Chairperson Sue Koepp-Baker.

Roll Call

Present: Auerhahn, Batra (entered 9:49am), Bojorquez, Estill, Flynn (entered 10:10am), Gutierrez, Koepp-Baker, Le, Lucero, McGrath (exited 10:15-10:43am), Perez, Smith, Teixeira (entered 9:37am), Vujjeni

Absent: Chao, Gilroy, Moreno, Preminger, Takahashi

II. CONSENT ITEMS

ACTION: Mr. Estill moved, Mr. Bojorquez seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the acceptance of:

- A. **Financial Status Report as of April 30, 2022**
- B. **San Jose Works Report as of March 31, 2022**
- C. **Minutes of March 17, 2022 meeting**

III. OPEN FORUM

Ms. Koepp-Baker opened the floor for public comment. There were none.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Director's Report

Director Monique Melchor updated the Board on recent in-person events, highlighting two scheduled job fairs – a Business Services event on June 23, 2022 and a San Jose Works event on July 26, 2022 – as well as plans for a large youth-focused job fair planned for Fall 2022. Ms. Melchor touted the success of the recent Facebook Initiative with 30+ youth participants as well as the work of the Bay Area Transition Aged Youth Technical Assistance Initiative in partnership with the NOVA, Alameda and San Francisco Workforce Development Boards. She shared that new partners are coming to the Las Plumas Avenue location including Prosperity Labs and the Latino Business Foundation. Ms. Melchor announced a partnership with West Valley Community College to offer several credentialed classes free to the public, available to WIOA and non-WIOA participants. Ms. Melchor also announced the hiring of a new Outreach Specialist focused on bringing people into the Las Plumas Avenue location for support services.

B. WIOA Performance Report for Q2 of PY 2021

Director Monique Melchor and Sead Eminovic, IRC San Jose Director, International Rescue Committee reported on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program performance for the third quarter of Program Year 2021-22 (PY 2021). Ms. Melchor noted that both Adult and Dislocated Worker (A/DW) and Youth enrollments were on track with an expectation of meeting performance goals. Mr. Eminovic discussed efforts to improve Youth enrollment numbers. Brief discussion ensued among Board members.

C. FY 2022-23 WIOA Budget

Finance Manager Mallari presented a proposed work2future Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program operating budget for FY 2022-2023. He highlighted EDD's planned allocations for work2future reflecting an 18% overall increase from FY21-22 funding and the resulting proposed budget for FY22-23. Mr. Mallari talked through the proposed funding sources as well as allocation of funds between various budget line items, including SB 734 Training Allocations, WIOA Youth Job Readiness/Work Experience Training Programs, WIOA Administrative Budget, WIOA Rapid Response Funding, and work2future Service Provider Funding Distributions. Brief discussion ensued among Board members.

ACTION: On a motion by Ms. Auerhahn, seconded by Mr. Estill, the Board voted unanimously for approval.

D. San Jose Works 2022-23

Finance Manager Allain Mallari presented a funding report for the San Jose Works 8.0 program, including program background and analysis and a projected 2022-2023 budget. Brief discussion ensued among Board members.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

E. Community Youth Forum Recommendations

Board Member Jack Estill gave a report on the activity of the Community Youth Forum, including meetings with more than 30 organizations and 50 individuals. Mr. Estill invited a representative of the youth community, Maria Vans, to share her experience working with the Youth Liberation Movement and the Community Youth Forum. Ms. Vans shared personal experiences and reported survey results indicating housing, mental health and staffing are key issues for youth communities. Brief discussion ensued among the Board members. In response to a question about line item IV.E.3 (support and education for young leaders), Mr. Estill indicated that he plans to provide a report around similar efforts by the San Diego Workforce Development Board and their work in this area at the next meeting. Chairperson Koeppe-Baker noted that four public letters were received in support of an ongoing Youth Committee. One public comment was shared.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Bojorquez, seconded by Ms. Lucero, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

F. Ad Hoc RFP Committee

Board Member Chad Bojorquez indicated the Committee is wrapping up a series of information gathering meetings and expects to provide recommendations regarding work2future's Request for Proposals (RFP) process to the larger Board in future meetings.

G. Labor Market Information

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 that the unemployment rate continues its downward trend; for Santa Clara County the rate was 2.1% in April 2022, marking the lowest unemployment rate since the beginning of the pandemic. Mr. Thoo also pointed out that the total number of employed persons in Santa Clara County has decreased by approximately 7500, indicating a reduction in labor market participation. He highlighted year-over-year employment increases within the MSA in several sectors: leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, educational and health services, manufacturing, information, transportation and utilities, and construction.

Mr. Thoo discussed a nationwide trend showing a gap in the labor force – 5.5 million unemployed workers coupled with 11.4 million job openings – and noted future concerns for workforce boards around an aging workforce with high retirement rates, as well as a lack of and the high cost of reliable childcare. Mr. Thoo also pointed out a decline in the MSA/County population as compared to national population rates. Within Santa Clara County, Mr. Thoo demonstrated that labor gap numbers follow a similar trend with approximately half as many job seekers as job postings, but also noted that hiring is complicated by a mismatch between required skill sets and available talent. Mr. Thoo pointed out that several demographics are underrepresented within the in-demand quality occupation categories identified by work2future. Mr. Thoo discussed current inflation concerns, recent moves by the Federal Reserve, and recession fears. He noted a readjustment in the County's living wage rate, resulting in a recalculation of the base wage that work2future will consider for in-demand quality occupations to \$26.96 per hour.

Brief discussion followed among the Board members.

V. OTHER

Announcements, suggested agenda items for a future meeting, other housekeeping

- A.** Mr. Thoo reminded work2future Board members that in-person Board and Committee meetings are anticipated to resume in July 2022, pending an update from the Governor's office.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.
