

# Executive Director & Staff Report

(September – November 2016)

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## **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEMBERSHIPS**

R. Verches participated in a panel at BizFed's **Hitting Reset on Public Education and Workforce Readiness**, hosted by Los Angeles Trade Tech College on September 30.

## **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

R. Verches, J. Marquez, B. Schwartz, M. Ruiz attended the **Metro Transportation Summit** at LA County Metro Transit Authority's headquarters on October 7. Also in attendance were LA County WDB's own Patricia Ramos, Lola Smallwood-Cuevas and Michelle Yanez. Richard Verches gave context for where this project fits within regional planning efforts, as well as the benefits of collaboration on projects like WIN-LA. Keith Compton, Director of Project Labor Agreements/Construction Careers Policy, Compliance & Administration, presented on the WIN-LA program, based upon, LA Metro President, Phil Washington's mandate to prepare the workforce to handle the needs of the transit projects coming down the pipeline over the next 20 years. Mr. Compton introduced Metro's goal of hiring 1,000 people a year needed to prepare for both expansion of their labor force, as well as the 30% of their employees ready to retire today. The jobs to fill are in every aspect of transit--construction, bus, rail, operation, and professional services. Many of these are "hard to fill" positions.

R. Verches, and R. Carbajal of Business and Professional Services attended the 4th meeting of the **SB350 Clean Energy Jobs Collaborative** at LAEDC on October 12. California will need about 15 thousand new workers per year to fulfill the demands of "zero net ready" jobs, moving forward. About half of those are housed in the Los Angeles region. Based upon a pilot program focusing on outcome based curriculum with stackable industry certified credentials, an HVACR pilot program is proposed as a model to hone and replicate. It will rely on collaboration with Community College partners, the workforce system and private business to build a pipeline of training and job placement for these in demand careers.

R. Verches attended the **LAEDC Innovate LA Month Closing Event** on October 24.

## **STRATEGIC COUNTY INITIATIVES**

M. Ruiz attended the **Back on Track Los Angeles Convening** of all 7 WDB Directors and Staff by the Office of the California Attorney General's Division of Recidivism Reduction and Re-entry (DR3), hosted a convening at the Ronald Reagan Building on October 5. The convening gathered

information on local workforce development initiatives targeted at the re-entry community and to discuss how WDBs can work with the Back on Track (BOT) pilot program to connect program participants to employment opportunities once released from jail. The BOT program is collaboration between the Office of the Attorney General (California Department of Justice), the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the L.A. County Probation Department, and various educational, supportive service, and community-based organizations that provides in-custody and post-release holistic rehabilitation services to non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex (N3) offenders.

On September 26, the L.A. County Public Defender's Office and CSS, in collaboration with LA County 211, launched a **Prop 47 Eligibility Public Outreach Campaign** to connect the over half a million L.A. County residents eligible for reclassification under Prop 47 to information and resources that will assist them on their path to successful community reintegration and sustainable employment. The County will undertake a yearlong mass mailer campaign to deliver 40,000 mailings per month to Prop 47 eligible individuals residing within and outside the County. To complement this mass mailer campaign, the County has launched a website and a 211 hotline for individuals seeking information and resources. See <http://prop47.lacounty.gov/> for more information.

## **REGIONAL COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIPS**

R. Verches attended the **Goodwill Board of Directors Strategic Planning Retreat** at Goodwill's Community Enrichment Center on September 24.

R. Verches attended the **Regional BioScience Collaborative** at Grifols Inc. on October 4.

R. Verches attended the **LA P3 Strategic Planning Retreat** on October 24.

## **REGIONAL**

R. Verches attended the **Pomona AJCC Open House** with Senator Connie Leyva on October 27.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

LA County WDB staff and CSS are organizing 6 community stakeholder forums across L.A. County to gather input for the **LA Basin WIOA Regional Plan** that is being co-developed by all seven local area WDBs. These community stakeholder forums will bring together WIOA AJCC partners, business organizations, labor, economic development entities, community colleges, adult education providers, representatives of K-12 education, and community based organizations

to discuss five key topics that will be central to the development of the L.A. Basin Regional Plan. The forums will last about 2 hours each, and will invite participation from a wide cross-section of business, education, labor, community and workforce partner representatives. It is highly encouraged for our Workforce Development Board Commissioners to attend 1 or more convenings and assist in outreach to other stakeholders Commissioners see fit.

Consultants John Chamberlin and David Shinder will lead these community forums to inform content of the plan. Each convening will address critical elements of the regional workforce plan and cover the 5 topics below.

- Topic 1 - Career Pathways
- Topic 2 - Pathways to the Middle Class
- Topic 3 - Workforce and Education Resources
- Topic 4 - Industry-Valued Credentials
- Topic 5 - System Accessibility

## **COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Cafeteria Social Enterprise Healthy Food and Culinary Training Pilot**

On November 1, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a motion to direct CSS, the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), and County Counsel to prepare a solicitation for a master agreement for various cafeteria services for the County from the certified Social Enterprise community engaged in hiring and training Targeted Workers as defined by the Board's recently adopted Local and Targeted Worker Hire Policy within 60 days. Once this solicitation has been completed, the County CEO and CSS will work together to craft an agreement or agreements using the master agreement list to establish a new cafeteria operation at the Hall of Administration as a new, healthy, high-quality food option consistent with the County's Wellness Program. The operator of this new cafeteria will be required to partner with the Los Angeles Hospitality Training Academy (LAHTA) to provide culinary skills development to targeted workers to access career pathways and higher wage jobs in the hospitality industry. The BOS has directed CSS to work with LAHTA to develop the customized funded training pilot program that will prepare targeted workers for careers in the hospitality industry.