



County of Los Angeles Commissions and Boards Special Meeting Minutes (Draft)

L.A. County Workforce Development Board

Friday, August 20, 2021

10:00AM

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

If accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the L.A. County Workforce Development Board (WDB) at wdb@wdacs.lacounty.gov or call (213) 738-2711 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

MEETING INFORMATION:

CALL-IN INFORMATION: +1 323-776-6996 Phone Conference ID: 102 971844# PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW TO CONNECT TO THE VIRTUAL MEETING.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AN AGENDA ITEM OR A NON-AGENDA ITEM, PLEASE USE THE LINK PROVIDED BELOW.

Please note that if you wish to address the Board during the meeting, a total of one (1) minute will be allowed. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the WDACS Staff by completing a Public Comment Form via the link provided. (The Executive Director may, in the interest of facilitating the business of the Board, limit the amount of time which a person may use in addressing the Board).

A CALL TO ORDER

Holly Schroeder, Chair, L.A. County Workforce Development Board (WDB), called the 08/20/2021 Special Board Meeting of the L.A. County WDB to order at **10:05 AM**.

B ROLL CALL

Conflict of Interest: Members shall abide by conflict of interest requirements outlined in WIOA Section 107(h) which states a member of a local board, or a member of a standing committee, may not vote on a matter under consideration by the local board (1) regarding the provision of services by such member represents; or (2) that would provide a direct financial benefit to such member of the immediate family of such member.

A quorum was established with (12) Members of the L.A. County WDB in attendance during roll call.

Present (14)

Wan-Chun Chang, Jeremy Diaz, Jamarah Hayner, Mary Hewitt, Anne McMonigle, Dr. Enrique Medina, Shalonda Baldwin, Corinne Sanchez, Darrel Saucedo, Holly Schroeder, Lola Smallwood Cuevas (arrived 10:28), Karla Sayles (arrived 10:04), Jesse Cuevas, and Jessica Ku Kim.

Absent (7)

Russell Barnard, Antonio Sanchez, Gustavo Camacho, Berenice Nunez Constant, Keith Harkey, Michelle Roth, and Erick Verduzco Vega.

C CHAIR'S REMARKS

Holly Schroeder welcomed and thanked all Board members for their work in the System Modernization & Funding workgroups, recognized Vice Chair Saucedo for his leadership. Chair Schroeder asked Executive Director Molina-Aviles if she wanted to present on Updates on Workforce System Activities.

D UPDATES ON WORKFORCE SYSTEM ACTIVITIES

Executive Director Molina-Aviles advised to move onto action items.

E ACTION ITEMS

1 LOCAL AREA MODIFICATION APPLICATION REQUEST FOR THE CITY OF MONROVIA

Presenter: Martha Molina-Aviles, Executive Director, L.A. County WDB

Summary: This item is to inform this board on the Local Area Modification application request for adding the city of Monrovia to the L.A. County Workforce Development Service Area.

Discussion

- WDB Executive Director Molina-Aviles advised that the item was previously an informational item on April 9th, 2021 WDB Agenda, and that County Counsel met with State and Regional Advisor/EDD, determining that it needed to be an official approval/action item by the WDB, and noted that there is public comment on the item.
- WDB Commissioner Kim noted Foothill is in opposition and had questions: 1) What is Foothill's opposition? 2) Was the city aware that it was ceding their LEO (local elected official) oversight of their workforce development to the County BOS (Board of Supervisors)? Commissioner Kim advised that to be clear and avoid future issues, the City of Monrovia needed to acknowledge that they were relinquishing oversight of the decision making process.
- After public comments, LA County Counsel Lawrence Green advised that the WDB approval is not a final step or decision in the LAM process. It is local action and endorsement, which will also occur by the County Board of Supervisors.

Public Comments

- FWDB Policy Board Chair/Mayor of Sierra Madre Rachelle Arizmendi advised on the structure of the Foothill WDB's structure, and that their Policy Board has not taken an official position on the Monrovia's action and stated that the initial basis for Monrovia to leave JPA (Joint Powers Authority) were made on assertions that were incorrect. Concerns of funding allocation/not given its entirety. Assertion that FWDB gave SBWIB \$1.5M for training dollars.
- FWDB Executive Director Dianne Russell Carter advised that the FWDB is in opposition of the move and shared that there were some false assumptions shared through Beacon Media which the move was based on and provided attachments to the LA County Workforce Development Board.
- Dylan Feik, City Manager of Monrovia, thanked the WDB and stated that the City is aware of the relinquishment of oversight, and the City believes that it would be best served by the County's workforce board. City Manager Feik also shared that the City had to make a Public Records Act request to receive information on the City's specific workforce development services from FWDB, and that two of the six JPA members wrote formal letters in support of the Local Area Modification application. City Manager Feik also stated that the City was navigating ways to best serve all Monrovia, as well as those in unincorporated Monrovia which is already part of the County's LWDA.
- Mayor Robert Hammond, former Mayor/Councilman, City of Monrovia, in review of the workforce development data/shared budget, states that the County WDB has been providing more workforce development services than FWDB.
- City of Monrovia Councilman Larry Spicer states that the City Council supports the Local Area Modification, believes it will improve access to collaborate with Monrovia businesses, expand access to training for all constituents, and increase transparency. Councilman Spicer shared that Monrovia service data was provided by the County WDB within days, while it took a Public Records Act request and nearly three months for the FWDB to produce the same data. Councilman Spicer then shared a few examples of how County workforce programming can assist their constituents, particularly for Youth programs. Councilman Spicer stated that there were multiple elected officials that supported Monrovia's application with letters of support and would share them with the public once obtained.
- FWDB Executive Director Dianne Russell-Carter did respond to the comments, stating that much of the data and what was spoken can be shown to be not as described, and briefly explained an instance regarding Monrovia Adult School.

Action(s)

1. To approve the application submitted to the State by the request from the City of Monrovia to move from the Foothill Workforce Development Board area to the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Area.
2. The Los Angeles County WDB accepts adding the City of Monrovia to the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Area.

Moved by Commissioner Chang, Seconded by Commissioner Hewitt to approve the above actions. Commissioners Cuevas and Smallwood-Cuevas recused themselves.

The motion carried by majority of the members present.

In Favor (12): Shalonda Baldwin, Wan-Chun Chang, Jeremy Diaz, Jamarah Hayner, Mary Hewitt, Jessica Ku Kim, Anne McMonigle, Dr. Enrique Medina, Antonio Sanchez, Corinne Sanchez, Darrel Saucedo, Holly Schroeder.

Recused (2): Jesse Cuevas, Lola Smallwood-Cuevas

Opposed (0):

Absent (7): Russell Barnard, Gustavo Camacho, Berenice Nunez Constant, Keith Harkey, Michelle Roth, Antonio Sanchez, and Erick Verduzco Vega.

2 APPROVE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE SYSTEM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Presenter: Darrel Saucedo, WDB Vice Chair, Workgroup Chair

Summary: This item is for review and approval, and any action deemed necessary, the policy recommendations for the approved Guiding Principles.

Discussion

- Vice Chair Saucedo asked Executive Director Molina-Aviles to present item due to technical difficulties.
- Executive Director Molina-Aviles shared that workgroup was formed back in October 2020 to produce the document and stated that sharing the final draft which will serve as the re-solicitation of the workforce system for Los Angeles County, as the current system sunsets June 2022, request for extension by one year.
- WDB Chair Schroeder thanked the workgroup members, invited commissioners to comment on the item given its importance.
- Commissioner Hewitt thanked the workgroup and staff for the work involved in producing the document.

Public Comments

- None

Action(s)

1. Approve Guiding Principles Final

Moved by Commissioner Medina, Seconded by Commissioner Hewitt to approve the above action.

The motion carried unanimously by members present.

In Favor (14): Shalonda Baldwin, Wan-Chun Chang, Jesse Cuevas, Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Jamarah Hayner, Mary Hewitt, Jessica Ku Kim, Anne McMonigle, Dr. Enrique Medina, Corinne Sanchez, Karla Sayles, Darrel Saucedo, Holly Schroeder.

Recused (0):

Opposed (0):

Absent (7): Russell Barnard, Antonio Sanchez, Gustavo Camacho, Berenice Nunez Constant, Keith Harkey, Michelle Roth, and Erick Verduzco Vega.

3 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION (SCWA) PRESENTATION ON COVID-19 IMPACT

Presenter: Corinne Sanchez, Commissioner, L.A. County WDB

Summary: The SCWA provides insight as to the impact the pandemic has had on vulnerable communities, businesses, and workers.

Discussion

- Commissioner C. Sanchez shared that she serves as Co-Chair of the SCWA for the past ten years.
- Commissioner C. Sanchez introduced co-presenters: Kerry Doi (President/CEO) & Rachelle Arizmendi (Chief Operating Officer) from PACE (Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment), Robert Gutierrez (Director) from Catholic Charities/AYE, Magdalena Duran (Director) from Worksource One Stop Sun Valley.
- Doi shared that the SCWA has been working in partnership through the various iterations of federal employment acts over decades, and expertise in employment, and introduced a white paper with the WDB on Economic & Employment Recovery.
- Arizmendi shared statistics/findings affecting unemployment of LA City and County, small businesses

open, and demographic/community disproportional impact. Arizmendi also shared pandemic impact and response needed by workforce development, and recommendations for the future that ensure equitable works towards servicing vulnerable populations.

- Gutierrez pointed out vaccination rates affect their work, LA Chamber
- WDB Chair Schroeder thanked all for the presentation and stated that substantial changes are needed for the system to best serve the communities given the impacts of COVID.
- Commissioner Smallwood-Cuevas wrote in the chat "appreciate the allocation of innovative funds to providers for High Road careers. Especially targeting hardest hit by BIPOC communities. Agree our innovative work needs to focus on, learn and earn opportunities in High Road careers including public and private sector classifications that by pop groups have not been. Able to scale and access and retention.

Public Comment

- Phyllis Chestang, a member of the public, supports item and offered service.

Action(s)

- None

4 STATUS UPDATE ON FUNDING WORKGROUP AND INNOVATION FUND

Presenter: Darrel Saucedo, WDB Vice Chair, Workgroup Interim Chair

Summary: This item provides an update on the status of the Funding Workgroup including Innovation Fund approved projects in FY 2020/21 and FY2021/22.

Discussion

- Commissioner C. Sanchez shared details that workgroup commissioners were briefed on the item by WDACS Budget/Finance division.
- WDACS Finance Manager Alfred Beyruti was invited to comment, stated its still work-in-progress, and a deeper dive into the recommendations that can be voted on by the Board, and the next step would be to work on a revised budget for PY 2021-2022.
- WDB Chair Schroeder stated that she looks forward to the recommendations during the September meeting.
- Commissioner Kim stated that the WDB/WDACS should advocate for fair share of funding and to aggressively pursue opportunities to bring the dollars to LA County. Commissioner Kim believes that LA County does not get its fair share of funding, so asked Commissioners to practice due diligence.
- WDB Executive Director Molina-Aviles shared that workgroup efforts will be bifurcated: one for current year funding allocations, and future planning of the budget.
- Commissioner Hewitt stated that the group will make sure to look at the carryover funds as being applied to systemwide improvements and not just back to the AJCCs.

Public Comments

- Robert Gutierrez stated what was not addressed in terms of funding, is being done to alleviate the homeless problem, which is at crisis levels.
- Phyllis Chestang stated that there should be more clarity on allocation of excess funds. Thanks Lynette Beckles from FWDB as well as others.

Action(s)

- None

F INFORMATION ITEMS

1 AJCC CERTIFICATION PROCESS 2021

Presenter: Angela Gardner, President, Workforce Solutions, Inc.

Summary: This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, regarding the AJCC Certification process. "The WIOA establishes a framework under which Local Boards are responsible for maintaining a network of high-quality, effective AJCCs. To assist in these efforts, the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB), in consultation with an AJCC Certification Workgroup comprised of state-level partners and Local Board representatives, developed objective criteria and procedures for Local Boards to use when certifying the AJCCs within their Local Workforce Development Areas," (edd.ca.gov).

Discussion:

- Commissioner Chang asked how the certification team/process ensures facilities accessibility when the site visits are being conducted virtually. Presenter Gardener responded that the walk-throughs are through each space virtually, and a certification team member will be touring each location in-person safely. Commissioner Chang had a follow-up request to ensure that the documentation is accessible and electronic versions to individuals with disabilities.

Public Comments

- None

Action(s)

- None

F PUBLIC COMMENTS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING HELOD ON 8.20.2021 ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENTS				
Completion time	Please provide your Name (Optional)	Please provide the name of Your Organization (Optional) (Indicate "N/A" if no affiliation)	Please indicate which agenda item(s) you would like to provide comment on (Agenda Item Letter(s) & Number(s) please) . If your comment is on non-agenda item, please indicate "Non-Agenda"	Please use this section to state your comment
For 8/20 Special Meeting 7/26/21 22:45:49	Scott Shepard	Avenues Supported Living Services www.AvenuesSL.org	Non-Agenda	<p>What is this committee doing to address the Hiring Crisis that exists in LA County and throughout the State of CA?</p> <p>Our agency provides in-person (direct) services to adults with developmental services in their homes and in the community, and we have been unable to fill empty staff positions over the past 9 months. The reasons potential applicants have given for NOT taking our offered positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -they are receiving as much or more unemployment benefits to stay home (PLUS stimulus checks) -they need to stay home to provide/supervise "zoom-school" for their children and would need to pay someone to stay home with them if they worked outside of their home <p>As you can see if you go anywhere in LA County, there are Help-Wanted signs everywhere. There seem to be more incentives for the state to pay people to stay home than to incentivize working.</p> <p>Again, what are YOU doing to rectify this?</p>
8/18/21 11:08:37	Dylan Feik	City of Monrovia	Item 1 - LOCAL AREA MODIFICATION APPLICATION REQUEST FOR THE CITY OF MONROVIA	I wish to offer public comment in support of this LAM application for the City of Monrovia
8/18/21 14:25:12	Robert Hammond	Governing Boardmember Monrovia Unified School District. Former mayor City of Monrovia	E1	I am in support of transitioning to the County WDB from Foothill WDB.
8/19/21 11:32:42	Sari Canales	Monrovia Chamber of Commerce	Agenda Item #1	<p>The Monrovia Chamber of Commerce recognizes that a robust partnership between business, local government, quality educational institutions, and a strong Workforce Development Board is critical for business growth.</p> <p>We believe that WDB will actively engage local business partners, the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce and the community in developing the local workforce talent pipeline. WDB training and other resources will better provide Monrovia residents with opportunities to develop transferable skills and sustain employment. We welcome enhanced prospects to partner with WDB as it offers work based learning opportunities to Monrovia residents to help meet our employment needs and grow the local economy.</p>
8/19/21 13:22:46	Dylan Feik	City of Monrovia	Item 1 - LAM Request for City of Monrovia	In addition to my public comments, I have two letters of support for the LAM application for the City of Monrovia. Both the cities of South Pasadena and Arcadia have offered letters of support.
	Council Member Larry Spicer	City of Monrovia	Action item # 1	<p>Moving to the County Local Area will increase Monrovia's access to transparency. Monrovia's requests for WIOA performance data from the County Workforce Development Board have always been met quickly and completely. That data has allowed our council to see how many of our constituents have received funds from the County for classroom training and for Work Based Learning opportunities. We can also see how many of our constituents have received WIOA services from the County. The transparency of this data has helped in Council deliberations around city workforce development. As a member of the current Local Area, Monrovia was forced to file a Public Records request and then wait nearly 3 months to receive the same data that was quickly and entirely provided by the County in a matter of days.</p> <p>As part of the County Local Area, the Monrovia City Council knows meaningful collaboration with Monrovia's businesses will improve substantially. This County Board has approved an Innovation Grant fostering a partnership with Home Instead Monrovia, Managed Career Solutions (a County AJCC), and Monrovia Community Adult School. --CONT'D</p>
8/19/21 15:02:08	Council Member Larry Spicer	City of Monrovia	Action item # 1	<p>--CONT'D--121This grant was approved to address the dire employment needs of Home Instead. The grant provides classroom training funds for WIOA clients who have been hired as Home Care Aides by Home Instead and then gives On-the-Job training funds to Home Instead to ensure smooth transition to employment for all hired employees. The City and the Adult School have been making large outreach efforts to regional unemployed adults to encourage them to get this training and earn these jobs. This is a meaningful example of what WIOA is meant to do. While Monrovia has been in its current Local Area, these opportunities may have been discussed, but no programs resulted with Monrovia businesses and with tangible outcomes. Our Council and our Chamber of Commerce believes there will be more opportunities like the current Innovation Grant when we are in the County's Local Area because we know many Monrovia businesses are willing to participate in such programs.</p> <p>And most importantly, the move to the County Local Area will result in a significant increase in WIOA training funds and services for our constituents. The LAM application clearly shows the data to support this. Over the last three years, even though Monrovia is not a part of the County Local Area, the County Board provided classroom training funds for 35 Monrovia residents for a total of \$103,846. During the same time, in Monrovia's current Local Area Board, only 14 Monrovia residents received classroom training funds for a total of \$63,129. During the 2020-21 program year, at the height of the pandemic, only 4 Monrovia residents received classroom training funds for a total of \$14,910. Over the last three years, the County has provided WIOA services to 180 Monrovia residents, while Monrovia's current Board has provided WIOA services to 85 Monrovia residents. Though not a part of the County Local Area, the County has provided WIOA services to 212% more residents, has classroom trained 250% more residents, and paid 165% more in training dollars to Monrovia residents. The City Council of Monrovia has already voted to leave the Foothill Employment and Training Consortium and move to the County Local Area. The Monrovia Chamber of Commerce and many Monrovia businesses support the Monrovia City Council's decision. In a recent FWDB Policy Board meeting, Pasadena Mayor Pro Tem Councilmember and FWDB Policy Board Member Tyrone Hampton voiced his support of the Monrovia City Council's decision. Arcadia Mayor and FWDB Policy Board member Sho Tay has written a letter supporting the Monrovia Council's decision. On August 18, 2021, the South Pasadena City Council voted 5-0 to support the Monrovia Council's decision and we ask that for the record all letters be admitted and attached as part of my public comment form. We ask this body to follow the will of the people and their elected representatives.</p>
8/20/21 9:20:32	Dianne Russell Carter FWDB Executive Director	Foothill Workforce Development Board	E1 Monrovia Application to leave FWDB	This comment is on behalf of the Foothill Workforce Development Board. The Board is in opposition of this move. The Board feels that the City of Monrovia's reasons for wanting to withdraw from the Foothill Consortium is not in the best interest of the Monrovia residents and is being pushed forward to support a specific agenda. Foothill has provided information to the City of Monrovia as per requested through the public information act. Within that information is enough data to conclude that FWDB is providing a good amount of services to Monrovia residents. The City of Monrovia stated that they are not interested in the data that verifies all the services provided to Monrovia residents but only those who were enrolled in training. Finally, I would like to remind everyone that as per the federal law (WIOA) all services provided are driven by customer's choice and customers should feel comfortable with their choices.
8/20/21 10:44:08	PHYLLIS M. CHESTANG, MBA,	SECOND WIND S01C3, NON PROFIT FOR EDUCATION	AGENDA ITEM #3	I VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONTENT OF PRESENTATION ON COVID19 IMPACTS ON WORKFORCE. I AM A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT 323-879-1915

G ADJOURNMENT

The August 20, 2021 Special Board Meeting of the L.A. County WDB was adjourned at **11:45 AM.**