



**PHOENIX BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting
April 16, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

Members Attending via Teleconference:

Ali Gamero-Hernandez	Janice Mrkonjic
Kaaren-Lyn Graves	Dean Van Kirk
Jesus Love	

Public Attendees:

Christina Edwards	Hayden Maynard
LaSetta Hogans (PBWDB Exec. Dir.)	Rob Stenson

Action items taken are noted in **bold** print.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Introductions:

The Business Engagement Committee (BEC) Chair Jesus Love called the April 16, 2020 meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of four members was present.

BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

BEC Chair Jesus Love suggested that Item 11 be changed to "The Title II provider Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County" will host the Quarterly Partner Meeting instead of "The Literacy Volunteers".

BEC Member Ali Gamero-Hernandez motioned for approval of the February 20, 2020 BEC minutes with noted changes, BEC Member Kaaren-Lyn Graves seconded.

Jesus Love, Janice Mrkonjic, and Dean Van Kirk voted to approve. No members were opposed.

3. Review Committee Attendance Hours:

BEC Member Dean Van Kirk motioned to approve the consent agenda item, BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic seconded.

Ali Gamero-Hernandez, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, and Jesus Love voted to approve. No members were opposed.

4. Bagels & Business Update:

The March 19, 2020 Bagels & Business event was cancelled due to social distancing and public gathering guidelines in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic said the BEC should wait until the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) relaxes their suggested restrictions on gatherings to schedule their next live Bagels & Business event. BEC Chair Jesus Love suggested the BEC could host a brief 30-45-minute webinar to connect dislocated workers to hiring employers. BEC Member Dean Van Kirk agreed that a livestream or webcast could be an effective way to connect business people to dislocated workers. BEC Member Ali Gamero-Hernandez shared that the talent pipeline is transitioning and not many of the newly dislocated workers are eager to find new positions.

BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic asked what the software would be and who the intended audience would be and how they are attracted to the programming. ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix (COP) Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson shared the technology exists and that COP has contracted through Webex. He suggested a potential value-added topic for employers in the current climate would be to share the Shared Work Program, a program in which businesses can share available hours among their staff and the employee's income is partially supplemented by Unemployment Insurance (UI). Janice asked if employees on the Shared Work Program are still able to access benefits through their employer and Rob said that they are, that employers keep the connection to their talent and employees can retain their benefits. He said he would connect with Kelly Hart from Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) for updated Shared Work Program information and share it with the BEC.

Janice asked if there are any programs that could be publicized to businesses to upskill their workers. Rob said they could share information about the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT), which is a layoff aversion tool. Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board (PBWDB) Executive Director LaSetta Hogans asked if there were any other COP or DES business engagement programs being discussed. Ali Gamero-Hernandez shared that the DES Business Engagement team is discussing what a post-COVID-19 employment picture might look like and how to connect businesses to the Title I/Dislocated Worker pipeline. Rob Stenson suggested the BEC could try to connect the dislocated workers to programs to upskill at this time which would

ultimately benefit the businesses post-COVID-19. LaSetta shared that the ARIZONA@WORK Job Centers do not have jobseekers coming in, just people with questions about unemployment and trying to file claims, that it might be some time before the dislocated workers can be effectively engaged. She suggested that Rapid Responses are a service that could be shared with employers who are making decisions to lay-off or furlough employees, to connect dislocated workers to services earlier.

BEC Chair Jesus Love suggested that staff continue exploring the Shared Work Program and other ways to assist businesses at this time. Rob Stenson said he would share information with the committee shortly.

5. Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan Follow-Up:

BEC Chair Jesus Love asked if members who attended the PBWDB Strategic Plan retreat could share their thoughts. BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic shared it was time well-spent and she felt that the goals developed were focused.

BEC Member Dean Van Kirk shared that he felt Sheila and Tracy did well with helping the PBWDB members to develop values and goals.

BEC Member Kaaren-Lyn Graves left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

6. Committee Ad-Hoc Member Recruitment:

BEC Chair Jesus Love suggested that Ad-Hoc Member recruitment be an ongoing topic for the BEC to discuss and a continuous effort. BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic suggested that BEC members try to connect Bagels & Business attendees to PBWDB committees.

7. Regional Business Engagement Efforts:

ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson shared the Workforce Collaborative was working with ARIZONA@WORK and other business engagement teams in Phoenix to publicize which companies are currently hiring. He said that Pipeline AZ is working with TWC and Maricopa County to develop virtual recruiting events, particularly in the warehouse and logistics sector. On regional business engagement calls, there is an emphasis on creating best practices related to virtual recruiting events – what they are and what desired outcomes are.

Office of Economic Opportunity's Monica Magoon shared that they are discussing a grant to assist dislocated hospitality sector workers and provide a pipeline to the Advanced Business Services sector. There will be a virtual

event the week of April 20 with businesses to discuss their buy-in on prevocational training for the dislocated workers and willingness to prescreen or give contingent offers to candidates.

8. Numbers@Work Report:

ARIZONA@WORK COP Business Engagement Supervisor shared the Numbers@Work report. He shared that this week, companies they had under contract are starting to pause their contracts. Recruiting events are adapting to COVID-19 restrictions and exploring what a virtual event should look like. Rob shared that the Business Engagement team has called all of the Phoenix companies that had active postings on Arizona Job Connection (AJC) and verifying whether the post is still active so they can work with DES to remove inactive postings.

9. Strategic Plan Scorecard Review:

The BEC reviewed outstanding items on their strategic plan scorecard:

- **Goal 1, Action 1A:** Rob Stenson shared that currently the recruiting events shared with the BEC are only ones led by the Business Engagement team, not all ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix events. BEC Chair asked for complete recruitment events at the May BEC Meeting.
- **Goal 8, Action 2:** Rob shared that formal training requests were not made in time and the goal would not be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
- **Goal 9, Action 2:** Numbers@Work report is shared with PBWDB.
- **Goal 9, Action 3:** Staff will find a way to post the Numbers@Work report on BoardBookIt so the BEC can easily access it.

BEC Member Ali Gamero-Hernandez motioned that Goal 8, Action 2 be changed to red and that Goal 9, Actions 2-3 be changed to yellow, BEC Member Dean Van Kirk seconded.

Jesus Love and Janice Mrkonjic voted to approve, no members were opposed.

10. Committee Update Report:

BEC Chair Jesus Love shared that he would share that the BEC was revisiting Bagels & Business and how to connect to businesses during social distancing.

11. Matters for Future Discussion:

None

12. Call to the Public & Open Discussion:

None

13. Adjournment:

BEC Vice-Chair Janice Mrkonjic motioned to adjourn the meeting, BEC Member Ali Gamero-Hernandez seconded.

Jesus Love and Dean Van Kirk approved the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.