



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

**VIRTUAL MEETING
January 20, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:

Robert Cain
Karen Carter
Dawna Cato
Jeff Clark
Kaaren-Lyn Graves

Fred Lockhart
Jesus Love
Brendan Mahoney
Nancy Quinn

Public Attendees:

Christina Edwards
Hayden Maynard

Christina Quijada
Rob Stenson

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

1. Call to Order / Roll Call:

The Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) Chair, Jesus Love, called the January 20, 2022 meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of seven members were present.

2. Approval of November 18, 2021 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes:

BWEC Vice Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves motioned for approval of the November 18, 2021 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) minutes, BWEC Member Dawna Cato seconded.

Robert Cain, Karen Carter, Jeff Clark, Jesus Love, Brendan Mahoney, and Nancy Quinn voted to approve. No members were opposed.

Fred Lockhart joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

3. Bagels and Business Event Planning:

BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Robert Cain shared that he and ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix (COP) Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson were meeting on January 21, 2022 to continue planning the Bagels & Business event. Robert Cain and Rob Stenson agreed they were still on track to hold

the event on March 16, 2022. BWEC Member Brendan Mahoney volunteered to participate in the planning as well and was interested in including information about the toxic work environment that drives employees away from companies.

BWEC Chair Jesus Love asked how BWEC members felt about trying to host a hybrid event on March 16, 2022. Rob Stenson shared that COP cannot committee to an in-person event at this time because of the current COVID-19 infection rates. Jesus suggested having a backup in-person event in case the possibility comes to fruition. BWEC Jeff Clark asked if the venue the committee previously used has enough space for social distance. Jesus Love shared that Bagels & Business has traditionally been hosted at the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Center, which is operated by City of Phoenix.

4. Business Engagement Updates:

ARIZONA@WORK COP Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson shared that the Business Engagement Team is focused employer engagement including recruiting activities, work-based learning, and providing Labor Marking Information (LMI). Rob shared that recruiting events have been a point of focus for the Business Engagement team for years, but each year it gets more difficult to make the hiring events relevant to the Phoenix MSA. He shared that when COVID-19 benefits ended, virtual events were full, but attendance has sharply declined, with events getting a maximum of ten participants. While employers do need to hire people, it is increasingly difficult to get employers to participate in recruiting events.

BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Nancy Quinn shared she is working with many construction companies who are open to hiring events and they recognize that the labor pool is changing, and they will have to commit to training people, because skilled workers are not looking for positions.

Rob shared that the Business Engagement team has created an information sheet about standing virtual hiring event that can be sent to employers who might want to participate in the events.

5. Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Committee Updates:

BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that there were no updates for the Program Excellence Committee or Communication and Outreach Committee.

6. Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Strategic Plan Review: Strategy 5: Ensure ROI for workforce development in the city – BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Robert Cain and BWEC Member Karen Carter met with ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson to talk about the plan and where data needs to be updated. He

suggested considering the ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix programming to train drivers, knowing there is a significant shortage in the Phoenix MSA.

Strategy 4: Leverage labor market information to inform decisions and strategic impact of workforce development – Jesus Love shared that he was unable to meet with BWEC Vice-Chair Nick DePorter and BWEC Member Dawna Cato in December, but they will meet before the February meeting

Strategy 6: Invest in educational programs that lead to pre-defined, sustainable career pathways and business competitiveness – BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves shared BWEC Member Luke Tate will be looking into policies related to their strategic plan items.

7. Committee Update Report:

BWEC Chair Jesus Love said he would report information about the Bagels & Business planning after the January 21, 2022 meeting.

8. Matters for Future Discussion:

None

9. Call to the Public/Open Discussion:

The Volunteer Nonprofit Service Association is hosting their used booksale on February 12-13

10. Adjournment:

BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves motioned to adjourn the meeting, BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Fred Lockhart seconded.

Robert Cain, Karen Carter, Dawna Cato, Jeff Clark, Jesus Love, Brendan Mahoney, and Nancy Quinn approved the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.