



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

**VIRTUAL MEETING  
November 18, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

Robert Cain  
Karen Carter  
Dawna Cato  
Jeff Clark

Kaaren-Lyn Graves  
Fred Lockhart  
Jesus Love  
Brendan Mahoney

**Public Attendees:**

Christina Edwards  
Al Jernigan  
Veronica Gavotto  
Sylvia Hokey

Hayden Maynard  
Christina Quijada  
Demitria Robles  
Rob Stenson

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

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call:**

The Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) Vice-Chair, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, called the November 18, 2021 meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of seven members were present.

**2. Approval of October 21, 2021 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes:**

**BWEC Member Donna Cato motioned for approval of the October 21, 2021 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) minutes, BWEC Member Jeff Clark seconded.**

**Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Fred Lockhart, Jesus Love, Brendan Mahoney, and Nancy Quinn voted to approve. No members were opposed.**

**Robert Cain and Karen Carter joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.**

### **3. Bagels and Business Event Planning:**

BWEC Chair Jesus Love reminded the committee that they were discussing connecting employers to jobseekers as people enter the workforce, about company culture, or connecting with opportunity youth. BWEC Member Dawna Cato suggested a combination of the ideas would be current and appealing to potential invitees. ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix (COP) Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson said a program focused on the changing economic landscape is timely and he could consider his contacts to bring back potential panelists. He suggested potential jobseekers are more adept at comparing potential earnings versus subsidies available and the frustration in the hiring process for jobseekers has changed the economic landscape. Rob suggested that Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) coming into the Phoenix-area has also impacted the local economic area and they are considering how to integrate Arizonans into their culture and acclimate them to the international culture. BWEC Member Brendan Mahoney thought it would be interesting to focus on whether the applicant tendencies are maladapted or if businesses have not been able to acclimate to the changing environment. Rob said they need to address both sides at the same time

**BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Robert Cain motioned to hold the next Bagels and Business focused on the changing economic landscape, BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves seconded.**

**Karen Carter, Dawna Cato, Jeff Clark, Fred Lockhart, Jesus Love, Brendan Mahoney, and Nancy Quinn voted to approve. No members were opposed.**

Jesus suggested holding the event on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. BWEC Member Jeff Clark suggested it might be more likely they can have the event in person if they have the event in March.

**BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Robert Cain motioned to hold the Bagels and Business event on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Fred Lockhart seconded.**

**Karen Carter, Dawna Cato, Jeff Clark, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Jesus Love, Brendan Mahoney, and Nancy Quinn voted to approve. No members were opposed.**

### **4. Business Engagement Updates:**

ARIZONA@WORK COP Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson shared that the Business Engagement Team is focused on recruiting activities and work-based learning. He shared that of the \$250,000 in work-based contract funding available, the business engagement team has \$187,000 of contracts in process.

- 5. Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Committee Updates:**  
BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that there were no updates for the Program Excellence Committee. The Communication and Outreach Committee is resetting on their strategic plan and working with staff to reach out to specific populations.
  
- 6. Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Strategic Plan Review:**  
**Strategy 5: Ensure ROI for workforce development in the city** – Robert Cain and Karen Carter have met once and are planning on meeting again. They want to get more involved on how to ensure ROI from a volunteer standpoint and are interested in helping to reach more employers and driving efforts.  
**Strategy 4: Leverage labor market information to inform decisions and strategic impact of workforce development** – Jesus Love, Nick DePorter, and Dawna Cato reviewed the strategic plan and worked with staff to get the available reports and are analyzing information they need, including specific industry reports. They are going to take the reports and realign the actions.  
**Strategy 6: Invest in educational programs that lead to pre-defined, sustainable career pathways and business competitiveness** – Kaaren-Lyn Graves said they would meet with their new co-champion and have a report to the committee at the next meeting.
  
- 7. Committee Update Report:**  
BWEC Chair Jesus Love said he would update the Executive Leadership Committee (ELC) regarding the Bagels and Business planning for March 16, 2022 focused on the changing economic landscape.
  
- 8. Matters for Future Discussion:**  
None
  
- 9. Call to the Public/Open Discussion:**  
None
  
- 10. Adjournment:**  
**BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Robert Cain motioned to adjourn the meeting, BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves seconded.**  
  
**Karen Carter, Dawna Cato, Jeff Clark, Fred Lockhart, Jesus Love, Brendan Mahoney, and Nancy Quinn approved the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.**