PHOENIX BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**February 18, 2021**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

Robert Cain

Susan Ciardullo

Nick DePorter

Kaaren-Lyn Graves

Jesus Love

Brenda Schmidt

Patrick Winters

**Public Attendees:**

Mary Alejandro

Christina Edwards

Veronica Gavotto

LaSetta Hogans (PBWDB Exec. Dir)

Al Jernigan

Hayden Maynard

James Montoya

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) Chair, Jesus Love, called the February 18, 2021 meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of seven members were present.

1. **Approval of January 21, 2021 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes:**

**BWEC Member Susan Ciardullo motioned for approval of the January 21, 2021 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) minutes, BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Patrick Winters seconded.**

**Robert Cain, Nick DePorter, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Jesus Love, and Brenda Schmidt voted to approve. No members were opposed.**

1. **BWEC Vice-Chair Vacancy:**

BWEC Chair Jesus Love announced that Brandon Ramsey has resigned from the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board (PBWDB), leaving a BWEC Vice-Chair position vacant. He asked any BWEC members who were interested in becoming a vice-chair or in becoming a strategy champion to contact him.

1. **Bagels and Business Event Planning:**

BWEC Member Nick DePorter shared that the City of Phoenix (COP) City Manager’s Office (CMO) has not approved the March 17, 2021 Bagels and Business topic. BWEC Chair Jesus Love suggested considering a new date for the event and having a backup topic if the current topic is not approved with enough time to proceed with creating marketing for the event. BWEC Member Susan Ciardullo suggested an event centered on COVID-19 human resources issues created because of the pandemic, including barriers to employment for a work-from-home position and worker’s compensation considerations.

BWEC Member Brenda Schmidt suggested they keep the employer implications for the legalization of recreational marijuana as a future topic. PBWDB Liaison Christina Edwards shared she has a contact in the Arizona Industrial Commission Worker’s Compensation claims section, if that would be helpful in the COVID-19 discussion.

**BWEC Member Nick DePorter motioned to reschedule the Bagels and Business Meeting to April 14, 2021 and changing the topic to “overcoming challenges to hiring and supporting a remote workforce,” BWEC Member Brenda Schmidt seconded.**

**Robert Cain, Susan Ciardullo, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Jesus Love, and Patrick Winters voted to approve. No members were opposed.**

1. **Business Engagement Updates:**

ARIZONA@WORK COP Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson shared the February Numbers@Work report. The report details how many visits with businesses the Business Engagement team has made. He shared that despite the Business Engagement team working from home, visits have not decreased. Rob shared that in conversations with business consultants, businesses with less than a hundred employees have been taking time to consider their product offerings and strategic objectives and considering their workforce and what trainings they need to move forward. He shared that because of this, the Business Engagement team has been involved in Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) and On-the-Job Training discussions with businesses.

Rob shared that hiring events are down, but businesses are interested in having hiring events. There are some businesses that want to have in-person hiring events at the job centers, which the Business Engagement team is not currently able to offer. Members of the Business Engagement team are involved in regional ARIZONA@WORK virtual hiring event strategy discussions. The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) has agreed to host regular virtual hiring events and to send emails to unemployment insurance recipients to drive attendance at the regional virtual hiring events.

Rob shared information about the number of individuals in OJT and IWT. He shared that both OJT and IWT financial totals will fall short of the goal for the fiscal year, but the contracts continue into the next fiscal year.

1. **Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board Committee Update:**

BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that he had no updates for the Communications and Outreach Committee (COC) and Program Excellence Committee (PEC).

1. **Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Strategic Plan Review:**

**Strategy 6: Invest in educational programs that lead to pre-defined, sustainable Career Pathways and business competitiveness.**  
BWEC Member Kaaren-Lyn Graves shared that the information that they have gathered has been shared in BoardBookIt and the BWEC members can access it.

**Strategy 5: Ensure ROI for Workforce Development in the City**BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Robert Cain shared that a challenge to determining ROI is determining the number of people exiting in the program and the amount of money spent on training.

**Strategy 4: Leverage labor market information to inform decisions and strategic impact of Workforce Development.**  
BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Patrick Winters shared the reporting mechanisms for the actions related to strategy 4.

**BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Patrick Winters motioned for approval adding the action “Convene outreach to in-demand industry to remove barriers to employment” to strategy four of the BWEC strategic plan, BWEC Member Kaaren-Lyn Graves seconded.**

**Robert Cain, Susan Ciardullo, Jesus Love, and Brenda Schmidt voted to approve. No members were opposed.**

1. **Committee Update Report:**

BWEC Chair Jesus Love will report changes to the next Bagels & Business event.

1. **Matters for Future Discussion:**

None

1. **Call to the Public:**

ARIZONA@WORK COP Business Engagement Supervisor Rob Stenson said the White House has issued Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs direction and to expect more information on this direction in the future.

1. **Adjournment:**

**BWEC Ad-Hoc Member Patrick Winters motioned to adjourn the meeting, BWEC Member Kaaren-Lyn Graves seconded.**

**Robert Cain, Susan Ciardullo, Nick DePorter, Jesus Love, and Brenda Schmidt approved the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.**