

**Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2023 ~ 8:30 a.m.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Board Members Present:**

Suzanna Armijo  
Daniel Barajas  
Nick Bielinski (Vice-Chair)  
Latasha Causey (Chair)  
Jeff Clark  
Steven Cramer  
Patrick Fitzhugh  
Kaaren-Lyn Graves

Jesus Love  
Megan McGilvra  
Kevin Parker  
Alison Rapping  
Claudia Reilly  
Dean Scheinert  
John Soto  
Sam Wolo

**Board Members Absent:**

Alison Benezra  
Karen Carter  
Karen Hartson  
Adam Hawkins  
Scott Holman

Juvenal Lopez  
Ginger Lane  
Dean Scheinert  
Luke Tate

**Public Attendees:**

LaSetta Hogans (Executive Director)  
Marchelle Franklin  
Ariadna Valentin  
Steven Bennett  
Dustin Panoff  
Kandi Tillman  
Eddie Barojas  
Demitria Robles  
Elizabeth "E" Cole  
Sandra Enriquez  
Steven Bennett

Matalie Hastings  
Jovanna Parkhouse  
Tracee Spire  
Stacey VanEmst  
James Montoya  
Genie Usher  
Julie Stiak  
Stan Flowers  
Perla Garcia  
Nancy Quinn

**1. Call to Order:**

Phoenix Business and Workforce Development (PBWD) Board Chair, Latasha Causey, called the May 11, 2023 PBWD Board Meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of 14 members were present.

**2. Approval of March 9, 2023 PBWDB Meeting Minutes:**

**A motion to approve the March 9, 2023 PBWDB Meeting Minutes** was made by PBWD Board Member Jeff Clark, and seconded by PBWD Board Member Steven Cramer.

**Approved:** Suzanna Armijo, Daniel Barajas, Nick Bielinski (Vice-Chair), Latasha Causey, Patrick Fitzhugh, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Adam Hawkins, Juvenal Lopez, Jesus Love, Meghan McGilvra, Kevin Parker, Alison Rapping, Claudia Reilly, John Soto, Sam Wolo

**Opposed: None**

**Abstained: None**

**Motion passed**

**3. Consent Agenda: ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Policies for Revision**

On recommendation of the PEC, the PBWD Board considered the following ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Policies for revisions:

- 200.202: Eligibility – Individualized Career Services
- 200.206: Workforce Preparation Activities
- 400.403: Data Integrity and the Customer Participation Cycle
- 400.407: Performance Measures
- 600.603: Training Services – Entrepreneurial
- 700.704: QA Equal Opportunity is the Law

**A motion to approve the consent agenda** was made by PBWD Board Member Daniel Barajas, and seconded by PBWD Board Member Kevin Parker.

**Approved:** Suzanna Armijo, Nick Bielinski, Latasha Causey, Jeff Clark, Patrick Fitzhugh, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Jesus Love, Alison Rapping, Claudia Reilly, Dean Scheinert, John Soto, Sam Wolo

**Opposed: None**

**Abstained: None**

**Motion passed**

#### **4. Chair Update:**

PBWD Board Chair Latasha Causey shared that a new Board Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed, with their terms to commence on July 1, 2023. She shared that the members will have the opportunity to speak to PBWD Board members later in the meeting.

#### **5. Annual Economic Development Update:**

City of Phoenix (COP) Community and Economic Development Director Chris Mackay shared an economic development update for the Phoenix area. She shared that Phoenix has been the fastest growing city in the country for the past five years and the current unemployment rate as of March 2023 is 2.9%. She noted that 73,000 jobs have been added in Phoenix in the last five years, including jobs in advanced business services, emerging technologies, international business/trade, manufacturing, biolife sciences, and software. She shared that European, American, and Asian companies have been investing in Phoenix and it's currently 6<sup>th</sup> in the list of largest international investment. She shared how the metaverse including augmented reality, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence is growing in Phoenix, including robot and drone delivery. She shared that Phoenix is working to ensuring they respond actively to growing sectors, including working with the college system to respond to the changing economy and helping them to remain on the cutting edge of technology and cultivating entrepreneurship. She shared an update about the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) campus construction and that they would be able to manufacture semiconductors on-site in early 2024. Chris shared that the Center for Advanced Immunological Therapies (CAMI) is researching the human genome the body to cure itself and is coming to the Phoenix BioSciences Core.

Chris shared different workforce training solutions to ensure economic development for everyone, including the mobilization of the Mobile Career Unit (MCU), Innovation 27, starting engaging students earlier so they see their path to economic mobility, removing the digital divide, having more nimble education partners, and removing barriers like food insecurity and childcare. Phoenix expanding public transit access to residents.

Chris shared that there is a recession is forecasted in late 2023. She shared that Phoenix is well-positioned to weather the recession, that all economic forecasters believe the recession will be short and shallow, because it is no longer construction-led. She shared that through diversification, Phoenix has recaptured 140% of their jobs. She did share that Phoenix is not able to promote affordability like they used to. She shared that if the debt ceiling was not raised, Phoenix would not be immune to the ramifications of the country defaulting on their debt.

## **6. National Association of Workforce Board (NAWB) Conference Experience:**

PBWD Board Vice-Chair Nick Bielinski shared that his biggest takeaway from the NAWB conference was that the Board should continue to focus on its priorities. He suggested members stay engaged and get involved in the strategies that connect with their work and interests and to build relationships with PBWD Board members.

PBWD Board Member Jesus Love shared that ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Deb Furlong presented about apprenticeships. PBWD Board member Megan McGilvra and ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Interim Human Services Deputy Director David Chavez presented about developing youth career pathways.

## **7. PBWD Board Executive Officer Elections:**

PBWD Board Chair Latasha Causey introduced PBWD Board Member Sam Wolo, a candidate for the executive officer roles. Sam shared his experience with the PBWD Board and his engagement with the Business and Workforce Engagement Committed (BWEC) and his career experience in workforce development and economic development.

Latasha introduced PBWD Board Member Patrick Fitzhugh, another candidate for executive officer roles. Patrick shared his career pathway and his history in Phoenix and his experience in workforce development over the last year and how he's connected with Phoenix partners to place underrepresented and underserved individuals into high-tech jobs.

Latasha shared that PBWD Board members would be able to vote for the executive officer roles after the meeting ends on Govenda and voting would remain open through Friday, May 12, 2023. PBWD Board Executive Officer LaSetta Hogans will announce the results of the election.

## **8. DES IGA for WIOA Title I Funding:**

PBWD Board Executive Director LaSetta Hogans shared that the contract with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to receive Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds to provide Title I services. Title I funding covers the cost of staffing, Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth services. She shared that the new contract will be for the next five years and is projected to total up to \$75 million.

PBWD Board member Steven Cramer asked if there would be any differences between this contract and previous contracts. LaSetta shared that the contract will not need amendments for reauthorization every two years, as they have in the past. She shared that the funding allocations are formula-driven. She shared

that low unemployment numbers will cause a reduction in funds allotted. LaSetta shared that Rapid Response funds, that have not been dispersed to local areas for the past four years, may be utilized by local areas to increase their work-based learning opportunities and layoff aversion efforts.

PBWD Board Member Steven Cramer motioned to approve entering into a five-year intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Arizona DES to accept WIOA Title I funds, PBWD Vice-Chair Nick Bielinski seconded the motion.

**Approved:** Daniel Barajas, Latasha Causey, Jeff Clark, Patrick Fitzhugh, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Jesus Love, Megan McGilvra, Kevin Parker, Claudia Reilly, Stephanie Rimmer, Dean Scheinert, John Soto, Sam Wolo

**Opposed:** None

**Motion** passed

#### **9. Matters for Future Discussion:**

Rapid Response and tax programs for business to avert layoffs

One-Door of Entry/Memorandum of Understanding and Interfunding Agreement with Title II partners

System partner referral platform

#### **10. Call to The Public:**

Jesus shared that Title II partners joined the meeting.

West Job Center Grand Re-opening on May 26, 2023

#### **11. Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:06 a.m.** by PBWD Board Member, Steven Cramer, and seconded by PBWD Board Member, Daniel Barájas.

**Approved:** Suzanna Armijo, Nick Bielinski (Vice-Chair), Jeff Clark, Patrick Fitzhugh, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Jesus Love, Meghan McGilvra, Kevin Parker, Claudia Reilly, Dean Scheinert, John Soto, Sam Wolo

**Opposed:** None



**All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.**