

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD EMPLOYER CONNECTION COMMITTEE &
YOUTH COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 6, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Konrad Robichaud, Greg Ghelfi, Liz Valdez, John Soto, Noelle Trinder, Tim Willenborg, Julie Stiak, Annie Landers, JakinDee Kosaka, Che Collins, Tina Drews, Barbara Coakley, Jessica Rivera-Garcia,

Members Absent: Marcia Veidmark, Tami Martinez, Brittany Holmes, Meredith Critchfield, Jessica Putton, Marie Raymond, Nancy Stanford, Robert Garcia

Call to Order

Chair Robichaud called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and requested a roll call.

Roll Call

MCWDB Board Liaison Julia Maciel Vargas took roll. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair Robichaud introduces new MCWDB staff member Amy Tidwell. Amy is the new Executive Assistant and joined the team on February 4.

Chair Robichaud welcomes committee members including those from the Youth Committee and guests and shares the meeting objectives and committee goals.

Consent Agenda

Meeting Minutes: December 20, 2024

MOTION:

Chair Robichaud for a motion to approve the MCWDB Employer Connection Committee December 20, 2024, meeting minutes. Tim Willenborg made a motion; Julie Stiak seconded the motion.

Chair Robichaud called for an all-in-favor vote:

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion passed.

Information/Discussion Only

Business Success Story*

Workforce Development Division Supervisor Tara Thain turned to floor over to Andrea Merchant, Business Services Representative, to share the business success story.

WDD Business Services Update/In-Demand Industries Progress Report*

Workforce Development Division Program Manager Tina Luke reports that quarterly the business services team provides updated labor market information to the career staff who work directly with our job seekers. The focus of her presentation today is healthcare and transportation sectors. Below are highlights from the presentation:

- The top reported occupations in healthcare are:
 - Nursing
 - Medical Assisting
 - Personal Care Aide
 - Physical Therapists
 - Radiology Technician
 - Speech Pathologists
- The top reported occupations in transportation and logistics are:
 - Stockers and Order Fillers
 - Laborers and Material Movers
 - Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver
 - Automotive Service Technician
- Team is looking for insight from this committee on stacking credentials for job seekers.

Questions:

- In this industry, are there a number of people that move from industry sectors or careers back and forth?
 - Answer: there may be some misconceptions from job seekers about what the job is really like. In terms of longevity and staying at the jobs that they are hired for, or staying in that career, we don't have a lot of data to show that.

Comments:

- None

West-MEC Update*

Speranta Klees from West-MEC presented an overview of what they offer this year and plans for expansion. Below are highlights from the presentation:

- Serves high school students that are attending public, charter, private and home schools.
 - Four large campuses.
 - Partnered with Maricopa Community Colleges to offer in-demand programs at local community colleges.
 - Teach students both the technical skills and the professional skills to meet employer expectations.
 - Currently have a waiting list for student to enroll.
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Questions:

- It's understood that advisory boards are required in each of your program areas, but can you talk about how somebody might become a part of that advisory board and how do you use those within your programs?
 - Answer: If someone has an interest in serving as an advisory member to any of our programs, we welcome industry partners. They are essential to us in advising us about industry, having the appropriate curriculum, the appropriate facilities, the appropriate PPE. Anything that we do with that particular program is based on our advisory council.

- Has the conversation occurred at any level at West-MEC about how to look at this current generation and their focus on internet-based careers and those kinds of things as opposed to traditional careers like the welding and the construction and so forth?
 - Answer: Our students want to be entrepreneurs. We do teach, and we do have, again, business partners who are entrepreneurs and who teach them that aspect of just being a small business owner. We also teach financial literacy,
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Comments:

- Thanks for what you do and continue to do to bridge that gap between youth careers and also to bring in business partners as a necessary component to youth careers.

Call to Public

Chair Robichaud made a call for public comment. No one spoke.

Adjourn

Chair Robichaud adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.
