

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD EMPLOYER CONNECTION COMMITTEE**

Thursday, December 5, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: John Soto, Greg Ghelfi, Konrad Robichaud, Julie Stiak, Liz Valdez, Noelle Trinder, Tim Willenborg, Tami Martinez, Greg Ghelfi,

Members Absent: Marcia Veidmark

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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed our goal to connect with our business services team to help support our work and their work as well.

Consent Agenda.

Meeting Minutes: October 3, 2024

MOTION:

Chair Robichaud for a motion to approve the MCWDB Employer Connection Committee October 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Eddie Baldenegro made a motion; Julie Stiak seconded the motion.

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

In Favor: Julie Stiak, Konrad Robichaud, Noelle Trinder

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion passed.

Chair Report.

Chair Robichaud thanked everyone for their participation within the board and the employee staff for the board and for demonstrating excellence and professionalism.

Information/Discussion Only.

Business Success Story*

Workforce Development Division Supervisor Tara Thain shared the business success story.

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

Workforce Development Division Program Manager Tina Luke shared the business services dashboard and plans for year two of Workforce2You. Below are highlights from the presentation:

- Each quarter the business services team produces regional labor market information reports for our staff to share with participants.
- Primary source for the data is a third-party platform called Jobs EQ.
- The report consists of one page for each of the six targeted industries with data tied to a specific region.
- These reports are shared participants through the career advisors in order to share the full picture of career opportunities available and the growth in each one of these industries.

Questions:

- Do you have relationships developed with the major companies in each one of these segments?
 - Answer: Typically, yes. The business services team are all assigned specific industries that they focus on.
- Is this information available to the public or how would you access this information?
 - Answer: This question is posted on our website and Arizona Job Connection.

Workforce 2 You

- The Workforce Development Division was recently awarded second year funding through a grant from the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family to bring occupational skills training to rural areas in 2025.
- Trainings will be provided through the Maricopa County Community College District in those same three areas: Gila Bend, Queen Creek, and Wickenburg.
- We are planning to offer Home Health Aid, electronic health records management in summer 2025.
- The training in each location has a target of 15 participants.
- The business services team has created flyers to include information on job duties, projected earnings and skill requirements.

Questions:

- Do you have a list of target employers that your team is looking to make connections with that maybe you could share with us? The board may be able to facilitate making connections if you have employers that you're specifically targeting?
 - Answer: Yes, we will survey our business services representatives and send that list on to the board staff to share with the group.

Comments:

- Please reach out to the board if there's questions around credentialing, especially if there is a sector that you're inquiring about whether or not the credentials that are being offered are aligned with what the employer is looking to hire as well.
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- We can definitely put on the agenda to discuss credentials, and look at the credentials that our participants are getting now and verifying whether those are the right ones or not or the best ones.

MCWDB Committee Member Forum: Community Involvement

Chair Robichaud opened the meeting up for community discussion. Below are some highlights:

- Banner Health is in the market for bio med tech, and figuring out what are the certifications, what is the training, and if possible if we could partner on that because this is a need that we're seeing at Banner Health.
- The National Science Foundation Southwest Sustainability Innovation Engine is partnering with CM Blue and SRP and building the first North American long-duration energy storage near Florence and it's propriety. We are going to be building a fast-track flow cell battery technician program.
 - We want to be able to also develop a course that anybody could take to learn about long duration energy storage because that is the next big facet for the power grid and developing all these great energies from wind.
 - We are also going to be launching a data center administration certificate in collaboration with our Microsoft Data Center Academy at Astrea Mountains.
- If we could have guest speakers, subject matter experts in all the different sectors.

Call to Public.

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

Adjourn.

Chair Robichaud adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.
