



MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD EMPLOYER CONNECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 3, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Konrad Robichaud, Tim Willenborg, John Soto

Members Absent: Tami Martinez, Gregg Ghelfi, Noelle Trinder, Julie Stiak, Liz Valdez

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

MCWDB Executive Assistant Amy Tidwell called roll. A quorum was not present.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Chair Robichaud reported that the attendance at National Association of Workforce Boards conference in Washington, DC, was successful and shared that Full Board Chair Bonnie Schirato, on behalf of MCWDB, accepted an award for 2025 Workforce Development Board and Community College Partnership.
- Chair Robichaud reviewed the meeting objectives and committee goals.

Consent Agenda.

Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2025

MOTION:

Quorum not present. Unable to vote.

Motion:

Second:

All in favor vote held: **N/A**

In favor:

Opposed:

Abstained:

Information/Discussion Only

Business Success Story

Harvey Smith from the Workforce Development Division to share the Business Success Story.

WDD Business Services Update/In-Demand Industries Progress Report

Tara Thain, Rapid Response Program Coordinator out of the Workforce Development Division and Human Services presented on behalf of Tine Luke, Workforce Development Program Manager.

- Based on the data from our third-party software, JobsEQ, the six occupations listed here were identified as the top occupations in the construction sector in Maricopa County.
 - Laborer
 - Electrician
 - Plumber/Pipefitter
 - Carpenter
 - Sheet Metal Worker
 - Operating Engineer
- The median wages for these occupations range from \$43 ,200 for construction laborers to 60 ,600 for pipe fitters.
- This list does not take into consideration the length of training or education required but merely illustrates a variety of career paths available.
- The typical credentials job seekers pursue through the short-term occupational skills training supported:
 - OSHA Certificate
 - Construction Trades Certification
 - HVAC/R EPA Section 608 Universal Certification
- Based on the data from our third-party software, JobsEQ, for manufacturing sector, the five occupations listed were identified as the top occupations in Maricopa County.
 - Maintenance Worker
 - Production Worker
 - First-Line Supervisor
 - Purchasing Agent
 - Inspector, Tester, Sorter
- Medium wages for these occupations range from \$42 ,100 for production workers and \$60 ,600 for first-line supervisors.
- Manufacturing credentials pursued are:
 - MIG Welding Certification
 - CNC Machining Certificate
 - CNC Operator Certificate

General Rapid Response Pilot Program

Tara Thain, Rapid Response Program Coordinator out of the Workforce Development Division and Human Services reported:

- Purpose of this initiative was to provide employment services to those recently laid off but struggled to capture those dislocated workers on the job site before or even after the date of separation.
- Promotion Efforts:
 - LinkedIn, Facebook.
 - Flyers distributed in centers

- Collaboration with internal departments, city economic councils, state teams
- Held March 25, 2025
- Resources: resume, interview and unemployment
- Registrations: 115 total participants that signed up
 - 76 for Resources
 - 99 for Employer Spotlight
- Attendance:
 - 33 attended Resources
 - 45 attended Employer Spotlight
- Survey results: 4.65 or 4.79 out of 5

2025 Strategic Initiative Planning Update

Samantha Chase, Maricopa County Innovation Studio Service Designer, gave an update. Below are the highlights from her presentation:

- February 20, 2025, held first strategic planning session to explore what values can be defined
- Finalized strategic planning values that, again, will be the pillars of the strategic plan.
 1. We will continuously refocus and serve critical workforce needs that looks like promising to prioritize in-demand industries and their workforce needs, aligning actions to future trends in the short and long term.
 2. We will mobilize collective expertise, so promising to convene and leverage best-in-class workforce development expertise, connecting organizations and leaders to create a trusted information network
 3. We will lead the recognition of emerging career pathways.
- The promise is to improve the accessibility exposure and quality of training resources to better identify and create realistic career pathways for qualified and unqualified job seekers.

Call to Public

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

Adjourn

Chair Robichaud adjourned the meeting at 10:29a.m.