



YUMA COUNTY

Innovative Workforce Solutions

**YUMA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD'S-
HEALTHCARE SECTOR STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Yuma Private Industry Council, Administration Building
3834 W. 16th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364

Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86496971084?pwd=UkJzUTlzcUVJaC85eSs1Uks4U1BrQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 9697 1084, Passcode: 929307

Phone: +1 346 248 7799 US

September 20, 2022

3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Call Meeting to Order

Gregory LaVann called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Gregory LaVann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

The roll was called, and those present and absent were:

Members Present (Virtually)	Members Absent
1. Maria Chavoya	1. Zonia Pelroy (Excused)
2. Nidia Herrera	
3. Gregory LaVann	
4. Samuel G. Loveless	
5. Laura Wisniewski	
5. Lorena Zendejas	

Guest/Staff Present (Virtually)

Michael J. Sabath, NAU

Mathew McElrath, YRMC

Reetika Dhawan, AWC

Chris Langseth, AZDVS

Jessica Zamora, AWC

Mercedes Mendivil, EQUSS

Raeann Ortega, ROSS

Elena Felix, YPIC

Patrick Goetz, YPIC

Evelyn Aello, YPIC

Beatriz Aguilar, YPIC

IV. Discussion and/or Action Items

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (August 19, 2022)

Lorena Zendejas made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 19, 2022 meetings; seconded by Nidia Herrera.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carries 5-0 (Yes: Nidia Herrera, Gregory LaVann, Samuel G. Loveless, Laura Wisniewski & Lorena Zendejas)

V. **Informational Session**

Gregory LaVann informed the guests, the committee is researching how to support the healthcare sector in Yuma County to find qualified individuals and assist individuals to go through the programs to obtain a certification. A list that included Sunset Health, Yuma Regional Medical Center and Haven Health in demand occupations was shared to the committee and guests.

Committee member, Maria Chavoya entered the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Patrick Goetz provided the following steps that are needed to make sure individuals are qualified,

- Trainings must be in line with the employer needs
- The curriculum must be reviewed by the hiring individuals
- Adjustments must be made to the educational section

Nidia Herrera informed there was a decrease of funds for the adult program, therefore it has affected the service providers to be able to increase the numbers for these types of trainings.

Gregory LaVann asked the service providers what are they encountering and what are some of the challenges. Mercedes Mendivil commented on behalf of the adult and dislocated worker program; there needs to be more community events/outreach to inform individuals about the different types of medical professions and their duties and responsibilities.

Gregory LaVann asked Samuel G. Loveless what are some of the difficulties in getting students through the program and certified in order to hire them. Mr. Loveless replied there is a need for qualified certified nurse assistants and nurses in a post-acute setting. The challenge is getting individuals interested at a young age and then helping them go through the full process. There is a good relationship with the Yuma Union High School District, Mr. Loveless has presented to some of the high school students regarding nurse assistant, certified nurse assistant, certified medication aide, licensed practical nurse and registered nurses.

Reetika Dhawan from Arizona Western College commented the following,

- Salary for instructors is a challenge
- Will require full commitment from the healthcare providers
- Will offer a dental assisting program in Fall of 2023
- Will be increasing student numbers for nursing to help the community

Gregory LaVann asked Michael J. Sabath regarding Northern Arizona University's (NAU) nursing programs. Dr. Sabath shared the following information,

- NAU offers a bachelor of science in nursing program
- Looking to expand the NAU facilities
- Adding programs related to behavioral health
- Initiating a clinical mental health counseling program
- Implemented clinical speech pathology
- Considering a healthcare management or administration program

- Challenges are getting in the program and passing the initial examinations

Lorena Zendejas informed the committee, Regional Center for Border Health formed a partnership with Yuma Regional Medical Center for the new licensed practical nurse program. Yuma Regional Medical Center will be sponsoring 5 students and there are 75 individuals on a waiting list.

Patrick Goetz introduced Chris Langseth from Arizona Department of Veteran Services. Mr. Langseth provided the following information,

- Have four long term care facilities across the State
- Have seen difficulties recruiting certified nurse assistants, nurses and nurse supervisors

A conversation took place regarding the need of instructor and salary challenges.

Per Maria Chavoya, Nidia Herrera shared the following comments,

- Need to research strategies to find solutions for these challenges
- Heard complaints from the community regarding the challenges to pass exams, are there any other opportunities to assist students pass their exams
- Need to find new ways to achieve these challenges

Dr. Sabath informed the committee, NAU has workshops and study programs to help students pass certain exams.

Gregory LaVann stated another meeting will be scheduled to follow up in the next few weeks.

VI. Adjournment

Gregory LaVann asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Samuel G. Loveless made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Lorena Zendejas. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Beatriz Aguilar, Clerk of the Board