



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board Agenda

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 / 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Casa32 Grill & Lounge (Back Room)
186 N. Grand Ave
Nogales AZ. 85621

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call- Irasema Olvera
- D. Call to the Public
- E. Adoption of Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2022, Regular Board Meeting & Retreat
- F. Budget Report –Finance Department
- G. Partner Reports
 - a. Title I – Workforce Development
 - b. Title II – Adult Education & Literacy
 - c. Title III – Wagner-Peyser Act / Employment Services
 - d. Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 - e. Directors Report - Irasema Olvera
- H. One-Stop Operator – Report
- I. Board Reports
- J. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 08, 2023
- K. Adjournment

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

November 30, 2022 Minutes

Board Members Present

Richard Brennan
Victor Cardenas
Victor Heatherington
Maria E. Kinder
Olivia Ainza-Kramer
Tom McAlpin
Dina Rojas-Sanchez
Christopher Young
Irasema Olvera
Jim Mize

Board Members Absent

Dan Doyle
Louie Doyle
Karen King
Norma Lucero
Efrain Triguerras

Staff and Guests Present:

Patricia Azcue SCC Finance
Irasema Olvera
Jim Mize
Chris Renteria Rio Rico FD
Adam Amenaga Rio Rico FD
Cheryl Horvath Tubac FD
Javier de la Ossa SCC IT
Emmanuel Zuniga SCC IT
Luzdaniela Martinez SCC WIOA
Denisse Ibarra SCC WIOA

- A. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 9: 09 by D. Sanchez
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. **Roll Call** Quorum was present at the start of the meeting.
- D. **Call to the Public** – Introducing new staff, Denisse Ibarra HIB and Business Rep. and Luzdaniela Martinez as Youth Coordinator.
- E. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes – Sept 14, 2022**
- Confirming all Board Members had read and reviewed the September 14th minutes K. King motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by V, Cardenas, and unanimously approved.
- F. **Budget Report – Patricia Azcue - SCC Finance Department**

Patricia Azcue: Focus of the meeting should be on the expenses that are to be spent on the 2023 funds
- G. **Action Items: Approval of 2022 updated Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Local Plan**

- The Local Plan is a four-year action plan to develop align and integrate service delivery strategies and resources across the ARIZONA@WORK system in a Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA). The Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Local Plan supports the achievement of Arizona's vision, goals, and strategies as outlined in the State Plan and is implemented as a business-led, results-oriented, and integrated system. As described in WIOA Section 108(a), the contents of the Local Plan are described in WIOA Section 108(b) and the CFR 679.560.
- Requirements for Local Plan Modifications added December 1, 2021, at the end of the first 2-year period of the 4-year local plan, and the local area in partnership with the appropriate chief elected officials must review the local plan, the local area in a partner in partnership with the appropriate chief elected official, must review the local plan and prepare to submit a modification to the approved 2020 Local Plan to reflect changes as follows: 1. In labor market and economic conditions; and 2. Other factors affecting the implementation of the local plan, include but are not limited to: a. Significant changes in local economic conditions; b. Changes in the financing available to support WIOA Title 1 and Partner Provided WIOA Services; c. Changes to the LWDB structure; and d. The need to revise strategies to meet local performance goals. Reference: 20 CFR §679.580
- The Local Plan has been approved by the Santa Cruz County Legal Department and Board of Supervisors and is now in need of final approval of our LWDB to then be submitted for final approval from the State Workforce Arizona Council. A motion was entertained to approve 2022 updated Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Local Plan. D. Doyle made a motion to approve and 2nd by Young and unanimously approved by the board.
- **Presentation** by Rio Rico and Tubac Fire Department- They have been added as an ETPL provider within Santa Cruz County. WIOA Covers the attendance cost for the students and some additional expenses are covered. They have 9 participants. Tuition is 4,000(includes instructor wages, this is what WIOA caps the help) uniforms 995 Orientation/task book 850, and Wages and payroll 16,980. The total per student is 22,825. This academy is paying the recruits to attend the academy due to high demand and low interest in career paths. The academy is a county-wide academy, that includes all county fire districts. The goal is to train locals to be participants so they can also be employed within a county district. The participants start off as reserve firefighters, with hopes to bring them on as full-time. Some sectors ask for a 2-year commitment from participants. There is a large return on investment. The goal is to have students develop in a career path, not just a job. Participants can enter from age 18 straight out of high school and there is no age limit. The goal with WIOA is trying to get participants into the Academy through Out of school youth funds. WIOA's goal is to have apprenticeships set up and have ___% of the wages covered through our program. The Academy goal is to have a 12-person academy per session, it is important for districts to have reserves. Recruiting locally has led to proven that locally trained participants are more likely to stay than if they were to recruit from outside of the county. The cost of the uniform is approx. 1,000. The equipment cost is approx. 5185. For requirement some districts do it through outreach at high schools, they are trying to establish JTED with the high schools and are having those talks with High Schools, Job listings through Facebook, and high schools and employment agencies to see if they have any interest. This could work as an opportunity to get in contact with the high schools to get the information to the students. Academy is approved on ETPL for a year and depending on the outcome it could become a set to be for 3 years, hopes to have them as a set academy within the county.

*Goal is to increase the number of supportive services provided, for cases like this.

Proposal Changes in the monetary amount offered as Supportive Services and Additional Supportive Services.

- Supportive Services and the monetary amount offered, and proposal
 - o **Child care** up to \$300 offered, proposed \$1,000 for adults/dislocated workers and \$2,000 for youth
 - o **Certification/licensing/testing** based upon need- not to exceed up to \$200 offered, proposed based upon need- not to exceed \$600 for adults/dislocated workers and \$1,000 for youth
 - o **Tools** up to \$600 offered, proposed up to \$600 maximum for both adults/dislocated and youth.

- **Uniforms** up to \$150 offered, proposed up to \$300 maximum for both adults/dislocated and youth.
- **Shoes-Safety and others required for work** offers \$150, proposal amount to stay the same.
- **Work/ Interview clothing** \$100 maximum offered, proposed up to \$500 maximum for both adult/dislocate and youth
- **Eye Care** \$150 maximum offered, proposed up to \$300 maximum for both adult/dislocated and youth
- **Utilities/rent (one time assistance if not available through other sources)** \$175 maximum offered, proposed \$500 maximum for adult/dislocated and \$1,500 maximum offered for youth
- **Relocation assistance** \$300 maximum offered, proposed \$1,000 maximum for both adult/dislocated and youth.
- **Auto Repair** \$250 maximum offered, proposed to \$1,000 per program year for both adult/dislocated and youth
- **Gas** offered up to \$50 per week, proposed to up to \$50 dollars a week, \$500 maximum for both adult/dislocated and youth
- **Medical Care** offers \$150 maximum, proposed to \$300 maximum for both adults/dislocated and youth
- **Dental Assistance** offers \$150 Maximum, proposed \$500 maximum for both adults/dislocated and youth
- **Reasonable Accommodation for Individuals with Disabilities** offers based on need- not to exceed \$300, proposed based on need- not to exceed \$1,000 for both adults/dislocated and youth
- **Other Services** proposed were
 - **Internet Service** \$1,200 maximum (Reimbursable) for both adults/dislocated and youth
- Motion to approve by Board Member Victor Heatherington (NPD) Seconded by Board Member Tom McAlpine (Union Rep AFL/CIO)
- Cell phone coverage changed to be reimbursed if needed instead of it being fully covered.
- Motion to approve the new revised proposal to increase the monetary amount offered for Supportive Services and Additional Supportive Services by Board Member Victor Heatherington seconded by Board Member Tom McAlpine. Approved Unanimously.

H. Partner Reports

1. Title I – Workforce Development- Irasema Olvera

- a. Traffic in our office has slowed down since the start of the produce season in mid-October. We are currently averaging around 450 clients a week for the past two months compared to the average of 630 in previous months.
- b. Our staff continues with outreach activities. Even short staffed we have managed to have staff attend all outreach that we have been invited to. MIKID, Circles of Peace, Mariposa Health Fair, Patagonia & Nogales High School Career Fairs, Rio Rico Trunk-or-Treat, Nogales Police Department Trunk-or Treat, Sahuarita Food Bank Job Fair, and the C-Creo College Blitz have been some of the events our staff has attended. We also worked together with all partners with Rapid Response Services for the layoffs from the AMMA Cultivation. We had a total of 35 people attend our Rapid Response Services. Program Director and K. Villagran attended this year's NAWDP 2022 Youth Symposium in Charlotte, NC. The conference is solely based on Youth. It was one of the best conferences so far and it was great to attend to bring ideas to other Workforce Development Programs.
- c. We are still attending various partner meetings, collaborating at local and state levels in an attempt to identify and address specific needs and or skills that employers are seeking with the ultimate vision of strengthening our local workforce and meeting all required objectives.

2. Title II – Adult Education & Literacy- Christopher Young

- a. The new semester began on October 18th. The previous day, October 17th, we held a teacher orientation. All students and teachers were given gift bags on the first day of classes. On the second day of classes, the Adult Ed Team gave 15-minute presentations to each class to inform them about our program
- b. We have 220 registered students which is an increase from 176 from the last report.
- c. We have been aggressively completing progress exams. We have 16 level gains in the past three weeks compared to 5 reported from July 1st to September 1st.
- d. We have moved the GED classes to the Santa Cruz Center. South32 is in the process of donating 60 laptops and a charging cart and with this by January we will have ELLA classes in the Santa Cruz Center also.
- e. New staff has had various pieces of training and meetings with ADE to become familiar with the program. We are excited about all of the Workforce Development and partnership opportunities that exist within the program.
- f. Luzdaniela, a part-time employee on our staff, has left the program to become a case worker in the Title I program. We wish her the best of luck. Due to this, Renee Barber, a part-time employee from the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, will join the adult education team. With the cost savings from the different personnel movements, we are working to open a full-time secretary position for the program.
- g. We have already started our new enrollment process for the January cohort. The goal is to have 25 students in each class. Currently, we have an average of 12 students per class including GED and ELLA.

3. Title III – Wagner-Peyser Act / Employment Service – Victor Cardenas

- a. Santa Cruz for the Months of August-October
- b. Nogales has been able to provide 33 referrals / compared to 49 from last year, and staff has successfully placed 32 clients in meaningful employment compared to 73 from last year.
- c. Nogales has had 267 job openings in AJC/ System. Will not allow comparison.
- d. Staff in Nogales have served approximately 736 clients compared to 440 from last year, which registered 417 in AJC compared to 428 from last year.
- e. We as an administration are working with the Foreign Labor Certification unit to assist in the housing inspection for the Farmworker population.
- f. We will be taking over some responsibility for the in-house inspections for Farmworkers and others.
- g. There is work being done to improve the referral process between offices to Title IB

4. Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Ma. Elizabeth Kinder District 6 VR Office Updates:

WIOA Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Presented by: Maria 'Elizabeth' Kinder, MA – VR Supervisor (Nogales, Sierra Vista, Douglas)

Program Overview:

VR is using a hybrid model for delivering quality services to job seekers. VR staff are actively working in the community (field) and in the VR office each week meeting with clients in person or virtually depending on the client's choice. VR Counselors will be in the office two days per week and work in the field with clients, as well as the VR Supervisor will be visiting the office regularly.

- The Nogales team is comprised of two VR Counselors (VRCs) serving two distinct populations, aside from the General disability referrals from the greater Nogales region. A VRC serves the Severe Mentally Ill population, and another VRC serves the youth in High School who are needing Transition School to Work services.

- We lost our Rehab Tech for Nogales in August 2022. However, with approvals completed we are now preparing to interview again to fill this position. The job was posted on Nov 18th and interviews are scheduled for Dec 1st.

FY 2022 – 2023

Data Search: 7/1/22 - 11/30/22

Nogales

Referrals: 45

Compared to last year with the same date range: 42

Eligibilities: 16

Individualized Plans for Employment: 13

Successful closures: 6

Compared to last year with the same date range: 7

Note: The above numbers were generated from filtering VR's internal data management system and cross-checking internal tracking systems.

Recently the TSW VR Counselor has been working with transition youth from the Patagonia School District, scheduling meetings with the Special Education Instructor to begin meeting students during their IEP meetings and discussing VR services with them and their parents. VR Counselor has reported that there are several students interested in applying with VR from Patagonia High School.

The SMI VR Counselor has been working hard as a liaison and advocate on behalf of her clients with criminal records and on probation. The VR Counselor in Nogales is navigating the criminal justice system and looking for guidance in order to better collaborate utilizing appropriate resources in supporting clients be successful when transitioning into the local workforce.

- **Outreach Events:**

Pierson HS - Parent-Teacher Conferences – 09/22/22

Patagonia High School – Career Fair 10/21/22

- **VR Presentations:**

Rapid Response with AZ@WORK - 11/3 and 11/4/2022

- **Collaboration meetings:**

- Behavioral Health Clinic site visits – bi-weekly

- Transition School to Work meetings with VR Counselor and High School students - weekly

- **Cross referrals with AZ@WORK (Titles):**

The tracking system is in place with Receptionist at the front desk at AZ@WORK. VR Counselors refer clients to AZ@WORK during the intake with all new clients. Staff is utilizing a tracking system to capture the referrals shared between WIOA Titles.

- **Job Readiness Training (JRT):**

VR staff offer internal workshops (4) to prepare clients entering the workforce with job skills, resumes, AJC enrollment, master application, and a 30-second elevator speech.

- JRT Update:

VR is launching two additional JRT series this Spring in addition to the Regular JRT workshop. The two new JRT series will be serving two unique populations: 1) the youth population, heading into the workforce reinforcing soft skills, and 2) job seekers with developmental disabilities with a less regimented curriculum.

Actively hiring for Nogales Office, hybrid position. They have made a partnership with Patagonia schools.

I. Board Reports

1. Directors Report: Irasema Olvera

- a. WAC has made approval for local plans. The process began in July and got approved on 10/30. Approved IFA but costs were increased. Expenditures went up a lot. Budgets have not increased but costs have. New Partners project PPEP and ____ are also partners in the office. Board certification will be due in December to make sure the board is in compliance. The audit revealed that some of the board members have expired memberships. 51% board has to be business representation, attendance is critical for the board. The position needed to be filled for the second Youth Program Coordinator for the Next Board meeting on the 18th and will begin the Program Manager interview process soon.

2. One-Stop Operator Report – Jim Mize

- a. Irasema and Jim Mize continue to do outreach in the community to expand the Partner list for Santa Cruz County.
- b. Mize has been in contact with Irasema on any issues that he can be of help. There is communication between the two at least once a week.
- c. The Infrastructure Agreement was signed by all Partners and Irasema got Board approval on October 25th.

K. Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 18, 2022.

L. Adjournment

- Dina Sanchez motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Olivia Kramer and approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM

Board Retreat

10:45 start

Presentations and Roles of Members by Jim Mize

- Workforce Training History
 - o Believes reaching out to private sector business and employers should be more involved with the board and informed with the program, what it could offer them as employers and how it could help their employees; believes this could be improved on.
 - o Issued encountered with recruiting Board members is that decision makers within companies have to be members, and they have to be committed to working with the process of WIOA. Current members should assist with recruiting new members to make sure they are engaged to make sure they are present and attend.
 - o Idea was for board members of WIOA was to make sure that people that are involved with hiring and firing to be involved because they are more involved with what the program can offer both the employers and job-seekers.
- WIOA required Programs: *to send to board members*
 - o Title 1 Adult, youth, dislocated DES, Youth Build (not present at office) and Job Corps (not much contact)
 - o Title 2 Adult Ed, Literacy, Career and Technical Education programs and pos-sec level.
 - o Title 3 Wager-Peyser Employment Serv. (DES)
 - o Title 4 Vocation Rehabilitation Services (DES)
 - o Co-enrollment within programs is possible and could be more beneficial to program participants. Promoting these options more so participants are aware of how they can benefit from as many programs as they can. Marketing and promoting essential so that people who are qualified for these programs.
- Additional required partners
 - o Senior Community Service Employment Program,
 - o Trade Adjustment Assistance activities, present
 - o Unemployment compensation program,
 - o Indian and Native American Program (none present due to population)
 - o Community Services Block Grant Employment and Training Activities,
 - o National Farmworkers Job Programs (NFJP)/ Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program (WIOA Title 1), present and in office
 - o Reentry employment opportunities REO (for formal re-integration of ex-offenders)
- 14 boards local to Arizona, Work together to make sure that all programs are more cohesive and to see what is working on a grand level and what is not
- Local Entities: requirements and responsibilities (PowerPoint)
 - o Develop a Local Plan to submit to the Governor, (has been approved)
 - o Conduct workforce research and regional labor market analysis
 - o Convene, broker, and leverage workforce system stake holders are to assist in development of the Local Plan
 - o Lead efforts to engage with a diverse range of employers and other entities in the region to promote business representation
 - o Develop and implement proven and promising strategies and initiatives to meet the needs of employers and workers through industry partnerships
 - o Lead efforts in the local area to develop and implement career pathways
 - o Develop strategies for using technology to maximize the workforce system
 - o Conduct oversight of local workforce systems and ensure the appropriate use of funds for its activities
 - o Negotiate and reach an agreement on local performance measures

- Establish a memorandum of understanding and negotiate infrastructure costs of one-stop centers with core partners
- Select providers of youth workforce programs, training services, and career services, and one-stop operators, and terminate for cause the eligibility of such providers
- Coordinate activities with education and training providers in the local area
- Develop a budget for the activities of the SCC LWB, consistent with the local plan and duties of the SCC LWDB
- Certify and annually assess the physical and programmatic accessibility of all one-stop centers in accordance with law.
 - Comments:
 - Certifications or workshops available to improve work ethic (with focus on younger generations)
 - Sonoita satellite building almost ready to be used, will provide our services to more people in those areas. Staff will be expected to commute at least twice a week
 - Youth Center, locally. To offer our 14 services to our youth. A testing center, tutoring available, mental and VR available to younger community members, a place for youth to be comfortable in and obtain help in many areas. Circles of peace opened a youth center, but with WIOA, they must be enrolled within the program to be able to use these resources
- Arizona Workforce System Structure
 - Federal Government= U.S. Department of Labor: Employment & Training Administration → State of Arizona : Governor's Workforce Council, Department of Education, Department of Economic Security, Title II Adult Education Literacy → Local Workforce Development Board: Local Career Centers → Businesses: Help finding skilled employees, Jobseekers: Help with Training and Employment, Community: Help creating a stronger economy.
 - All funds are handled by county (Fiscal agent)
- SCC LWDB Mission
 - The BOS shall establish the SCC LWDB to represent a wide variety of individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the local area.
 - The SCC LWDB serves as a strategic convener to promote and broker effective relationships between the County and economic, education, and the workforce partners.
 - The SCC LWDB shall maintain strategic and strong relationships with business organizations, chambers of commerce, labor and trade associations, education providers, and others as needed or required.
- SCC LWDB Member qualifications
 - The SCC LWDB shall be comprised of the private business sector and public sector members
 - Board membership shall be representative of the local area's geography and business demographics. To the greatest extent possible, the SCC LWDB will seek to have a membership diverse in gender and ethnicity.
 - At least 51% of members shall be representatives of businesses in the local area, at least 20% of the members must represent small business as defined by the U.S. Small business association, and the balance of the Board membership shall include individuals with optimum policy making authority.
 -
- Member responsibilities
 - Regularly attend and actively participate in full board & committee meetings
 - Review meeting materials in advance of board meetings to be prepared

- Take advantage of learning opportunities to become more educated on the Workforce Development Board & WIOA
 - Demonstrate a positive working relationship with all Board Members & Board Staff
 - Act as a Representative between the Board & other stakeholders
 - Notify the Board Chair, Executive Director of the Board or the Board Liaison if you are unable to attend meetings.
 - Have Awareness of & abstain from any conflicts of interest
 - Help identify and recruit additional Board members.
- SCC LWDB Member Benefits
 - Workforce Board members can learn about workforce trends and legislative efforts that affect business in local communities
 - Workforce Board members can represent their industry needs and their local community at regional level
 - Workforce Board members can network with business owners and community leaders
 - WIOA Board Members conference March 25-28. Paid by WIOA, interested members to contact Irasema.
 - Brief explanation of program funding, and program eligibility
 - Back to proposal
 - Changes in monetary amount offered as Supportive Services and Additional Supportive Services.
 - Motion to approve by Board Member Victor Heatherington (NPD) Seconded by Board Member Tom McAlpine (Union Rep AFL/CIO)
 - Cell phone coverage retracted
 - Motion to approve the new revised proposal to increase the monetary amount offered for Supportive Services and Additional Supportive Services by Board Member Victor Heatherington seconded by Board Member Tom McAlpine. Approved Unanimously.
 - Get members the lists they asked for, at following meeting they will refine the information and see what information they can start providing.
 - Contact and develop working relationship with Department of Child Safety to they can be more aware of how many benefits they'd be eligible first
- **Proposal** to for WIOA to increase Supportive Services amounts. In order to be able to provide all these services, participants have to qualify for them, this makes it more difficult to spend the funds as they are expected to. There is larger funding in Youth Programs (75% of funding). To be part of the Youth program you have to be eligible and meet all requirements. For out of school youth program they must be not attending any school, no younger than 16 or older than 24 at the time of enrollment (Differ from ISY program) *send board eligibility for both*
 - For adult program, must be 18 years or older, priority is given to Veterans or children of veterans, dislocated or disabled workers. Employment must be difficult. Members having all the knowledge of eligibility could increase the numbers. There could also be an increased enrollment from different programs offered with WIOA, they should all be combined to obtain the same end-goal of employment/career. Biggest problem is that program requires commitment for participants for approx. 15 months, beyond them completing a training or certification, employment is what demonstrates program growth on WIOA end. In order for people to qualify for supportive services they must be participating in one of the WIOA services (within title 1)



Santa Cruz County Local Workforce Development Board

Partner Reports

Title I: Santa Cruz County Workforce Development

- We welcomed new team members Francisco Villaescusa as a Workforce Development Specialist and Zaida Bustamante as our new Program Manager, making us now fully staffed. Title 1 dedicated most of December to in-house training and making sure all staff was ready to start working with interested participants. Traffic in our office has started to pick up in the new year partially because of the final set of personnel being let go due to the closure of the AMMA Cultivation facility. We have been seeing an average of 150 clients per week, with a total of 965 clients from 12/1/22 to 1/12/23, which includes the Rapid Responses for people dislocated from the Amado Facility. We have launched the pre-registrations for our youth programs to the public, as of 1/2/2023 we have 18 students on our waitlist. We have started to hold Job Skill Workshops and Program Orientations for the public interested in participating in the programs.
- Our staff attended and gave brief presentations on all programs offered thru Title I at the Title II Student Orientations at the launch of their new cohort. Staff also provided Rapid Response Services for more of the layoffs from the AMMA Cultivation. A total of 27 people since the start of the new year have been provided with Rapid Response Services.
- We are still attending various partner meetings, collaborating at local and state levels in an attempt to identify and address specific needs and or skills that employers are seeking with the ultimate vision of strengthening our local workforce and meeting all required objectives.

Title II: Santa Cruz County Adult Education Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office

Enrollment

Goal is 200 students

134 active students

60 new students

194 total students total

*Last year the number of active students was 131 but we do not have the number of new students.

Percentage Achieving Measurable Skill Gains

Goal is 42%

We are currently at 25%

We do not have a report that reflects last year's percentage for this specific date. The most recent comparison we have is that in November 2023 we were at 16% compared to 18% at November 2022.

Comments

- We celebrated our Winter/Fall 2023 HSE graduation and ELLA completion on December 20th.
- We had our Winter 2023 cohort teacher orientation on January 9th.
- We have a new English teacher Marcelle Bristol.
- We started our Winter 2023 cohort on January 10th with great success and enthusiasm. The students were given an hour-long orientation including presentations by Title I and Pima Community College.
- All classes are now at the Community College.
- Teachers will be attending an in-person training on February 3rd and 4th in Tucson concerning English Language Standards. This training also includes 2 additional webinars.
- We have moved an entire computer lab to the Community College along with the 60 laptops that were purchased by South32.

Moving Forward

- Focus is on continuing to increase enrollment and measurable gains. We will be adding another English class at 6 pm next semester to push enrollment over 200 students.
- We will be promoting the HSE program intensely since we no longer have a waiting list for them.
- We will be meeting with South32 along with Title I to discuss apprenticeships and possible IET programs.
- We will be implementing a teacher evaluation during the 5th week of this semester.

Title III: Division of Employment Workforce Development Administration

Santa Cruz County: Months of November to January 2023

Nogales has been able to provide 21 referrals / compared to 28 from last year, and staff has successfully placed 36 clients in meaningful employment compared to 48 from last year.

Nogales has had 93 job openings in AJC/ System. Will not allow comparison.

-Staff in Nogales have served approximately 307 clients compared to 260 from last year, which registered 140 in AJC compared to 165 from last year.

We as an administration are working with the Foreign Labor Certification unit to assist in the housing inspection for the Farmworker population.

Title IV: Vocational Rehabilitation

Date: January 18, 2023

WIOA Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Presented by: Maria ‘Elizabeth’ Kinder, MA – VR Supervisor (Nogales, Sierra Vista, Douglas)

Program Overview:

VR is using a hybrid model for delivering quality services to job seekers. VR staff are actively working in the community (field) and in the VR office each week meeting with clients in person or virtually depending on the client’s choice.

VR Counselors will be in the office at least two days per week and work in the field with clients.

- The Nogales team is comprised of two VR Counselors (VRCs) serving two distinct populations, aside from the General disability referrals from the greater Nogales region. A VRC serves the Severe Mentally Ill population, and another VRC serves the youth in High School who are needing Transition School to Work services.
- VR’s new Rehabilitation Tech will be officially starting on **Monday, January 23rd, 2023.**

FY 2022 – 2023

Data Search: **7/1/22 - 01/31/23**

Nogales

Referrals: **57** Compared to last year with the same date range: **51**

Eligibilities: 26

Individualized Plans for Employment: 19

Successful closures: **11** Compared to last year with the same date range: **9**

Note: The above numbers were generated from filtering VR’s internal data management system and cross-checking internal tracking systems.

The TSW VR Counselor is continuing to work with the transitioning youth during their winter school break by meeting with students in person and virtually. The VRC also took two weeks to go on vacation in December while the schools were closed due to the Holidays.

The SMI VR Counselor continues her work with the severely mentally ill population and collaborates with the local behavioral health agencies. The VRC is also learning to better navigate the criminal justice system in supporting clients with criminal records.

Our new RT starting in January will be going through approximately two months of training before being ready to assist clients directly. The VR Supervisor will be visiting Nogales more frequently to assist her during this time.

- **Collaboration meetings:**

- Behavioral Health Clinic site visits – bi-weekly
 - Transition School to Work meetings with VR Counselor and High School students - weekly
 - VRS met with Irasema to discuss future Title partner training and meetings
- **Cross referrals with ARIZONA@WORK (Titles):**
The tracking system is in place with the Receptionist at the front desk at ARIZONA@WORK. VR Counselors refer clients to ARIZONA@WORK during the intake with all new clients. Staff utilizes a tracking system to capture the referrals shared between WIOA Titles.

One-Stop Operator Report
Santa Cruz County One-Stop Operator ARIZONA@WORK – Jim Mize

Irasema, Director of the Santa Cruz One Stop, and I continue to do outreach in the community to expand the Partner list for Santa Cruz County.

I have been in contact with Irasema on any issues that I can be of help with. We speak at least once a week.

I attended the weekly Business services representative meetings, hosted by Jalensky Irons, Deputy Administrator of Employer Services, DES. The subject matter for this month was Professional Technical Services.

There were no approved TAA designations for companies. The TAA program is still on hold and awaiting congressional approval. This program has been in limbo for almost a year. No WARN notices were issued for the month.

Nicole (State Rapid Response Coordinator) did announce that a Distribution Center in Buckeye would be laying off approximately 500 employees after the first of the year. She indicated that she had heard of a possible layoff in Tucson after the first of the year. She did not know the name of the company. I contacted the Business Services Team in Tucson, but they had no information.

Nicole also announced a merger between Fry's, Safeway and Albertson are in the making.

Several job fairs were held throughout the state. Mesa held a Second Chance job fair. Only about 30 people attended. A veteran's job fair was held in Tucson; it was disappointing with the low turnout of clients. Apparently, the bulk of employers is still using a fairly strict screening tool for ex-felons.

Bob Milner of Tucson announced that Pima County was going to hold a Stand-down in March 2023. Details to follow.

David Hughes of AJC announced that the program will increase the size of its template for businesses, to 5,000 characters. Hughes also indicated the Job Order process would be revamped in 2023.

Ken Carpenter of U.S. Logistics (based out of Michigan) introduced his company. The company sets up audio, and visual, services. They also provide IT and networking support for companies. Currently, they only operate out of Phoenix. Johnathon Pierce of Pima County asked about Job Shadowing opportunities within the company. Carpenter said he was open to the idea.

Due to the holidays, we did not hold the monthly partner meeting.

2023

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



A proud partner of the americanjobcenter network

LWDB MEETING CALENDAR

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30						

May

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28	29	30	31			

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2		
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2023 – LWDB MEETING: JAN 18, MARCH 8, MAY 17, JULY 12, SEPT 13, NOV 8

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Services are made available through federal funding provided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.