



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Innovative Workforce Solutions

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Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board Agenda

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 / 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Quality Hotel Americana, Mayan Room
639 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales, AZ

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Call to the Public
- E. Adoption of Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2022
- F. Budget Report – Finance Department
- G. Action Items - None
- H. 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
- I. One Stop Operator – Report
- J. Board Reports
- K. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 14, 2022
- L. Adjournment

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

May 11, 2022 Minutes

Board Members Present Via Zoom

Richard Brennan
Victor Cardenas
Nora Herrera
Louie Doyle
Christopher Young
Norma Lucero
Tom McAlpin
Maria E. Kinder
Karen King
Victor Hetherington

Board Members Absent

Olivia Ainza-Kramer
Dina Rojas-Sanchez
Efrain Triguerras
Dan Doyle

Staff and Guests Present:

Maritza Cervantes
Mauricio Chavez
Irasema Olvera
Jim Mize
Sarita Corella - DES
Miguel Ramos DES
Iris Castaneda - DES

- A. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 12:01 P.M. by R. Brennan
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Roll Call** – Quorum was present at the start of the meeting.
- D. Call to the Public** - None
- E. Adoption of Meeting Minutes - March 09, 2022**
- Confirming all Board Members had read and reviewed the March 09, 2022 minutes. C. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with V. Cardenas seconding the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- F. Budget Report – Mauricio Chavez - SCC Finance Department**
- Mauricio Chavez:** SCC LWDB Finance Director and WIOA assigned fiscal agent presented the Budget Report to LWDB. An updated spreadsheet with the WIOA budget up to April 2022 was provided to all LWDB members. No questions were brought up by any board members.
- G. Action Items:**
- 1. ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County Infrastructure Funding Agreement:**
- Santa Cruz County IFA is up for renewal after June 30, 2022. Copy of the new proposed IFA was provided to all LWDB members with highlighted areas of the changes that are being made. One of

the biggest changes was the addition of two new partners with designated space at the center, the PPEP & TANF programs. Everything highlighted has been re-estimated by square footage, part of the common area was used to add the designated areas for both new partners. OSO and Receptionist salaries in the calculation are also changing. These two positions are not calculated by square footage instead they are calculated by FTE which is what was agreed upon with the current IFA. The process for approval of revised IFA is long, once LWDB approves it will go out to all partners in IFA and they need to approve or if they have concerns come back a reevaluate to make necessary changes agreed upon. The motion was made by V. Heatherington to approve and recommend the start of the process to send IFA to partners for approval with reevaluation as comments and concerns arise. Motioned was second by C. Young. The motion was approved by the board.

H. Partner Reports

1. Title I – Workforce Development- Irasema Olvera

Title I staff has been working diligently throughout the past two months focusing mainly on outreach. For the past two years, because of the pandemic, we were limited in the ability to actually go out and visit schools, community agencies, and or employers. We have some of the staff concentrating on outreach within the Santa Cruz County Schools, they have attended a large number of events, within Nogales, Rio Rico, and Patagonia school districts. Tomas our Workforce Development Specialist who focuses on Business Outreach has been doing a great job in attending the weekly state Business meetings, attending the Nogales Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs meetings, and reaching out to local employers to assist with the job postings and job orders. He has now started reaching out to local businesses and employers to set up visits with them to offer the Business Services that help with promoting available jobs, prescreening potential candidates, and soon working with businesses that are willing to start on-the-job and incumbent worker training. Within the last 2 months, we have had a total of 5 different hiring events for companies from out of state. Four were from our Alaskan companies who returned back from not being able to come due to the pandemic. These companies come down in search of seasonal seafood processors offering great pay and room and board free of charge. These events were advertised aggressively throughout social media, and local newspapers; both paper and digitally advertised, and with the help of Luis our office transportation/maintenance we were able to distribute a total of 1,200 flyers throughout Tumacacori, Tubac, Rio Rico, Nogales, Patagonia, and Elgin. Maritza and I continue to attend all required state meetings, as well as the Arizona Workforce Association (AWA) meetings. We both have been attending meetings and collaborating at a local level to continue to gain more insights into needs and more ideas on how to better serve Santa Cruz County residents. M. Cervantes & I. Olvera successfully completed the LEAD, NACO High-Performance Leadership, training. Unfortunately, D. Sanchez was not able to attend the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference in Washington D.C. with us as planned due to an unforeseen circumstance but it was a great conference and again I will continue to say this is one of the best conferences I have attended. Seeing how local areas from different parts of the United States have managed to implement WIOA into their centers and their LWDB is something that helps us bring ideas back and work on making the necessary changes for us here in Santa Cruz County to continue to be in compliance with Administrative, Local Board and Program requirements.

2. Title II – Adult Education & Literacy- Nora Herrera

Santa Cruz County Continuing Education (SCCCE) launched its spring cohort on March 21, 2022, where we were able to serve 38 new incoming students.

SCCCE Program Manager attended program training with Sommerton Adult Education on March 17th, 2022. This program training was a valuable event, where we were trained regarding data intake procedures, testing session processes, and student retention strategies. The SCCCE Program Manager also attended the 2022 Coalition of Adult Basic Education in Seattle, Washington. This served as a valuable opportunity to connect with other programs and review technology integration strategies, as well as strategies to increase student enrollment. SCCCE Program Manager completed the LEAD, NACO High-Performance Leadership, and STAR year-long training.

With this valuable training, SCCCE was able to restructure its New Student Orientations, intake, and registration procedures; in an effort to increase overall program enrollment.

We have increased our marketing efforts and currently have promotional ads at the Oasis movie theater, as well as incorporated front desk staff at the 1904 historic courthouse. We look forward to seeing our program soon expand with our newly implemented changes.

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

Below you will find a synopsis of our accomplishments: (March-April 2022), which will show a comparison from the previous year.

- -Nogales has been able to provide 31 referrals compared to 33 last year, and the staff has successfully placed 25 clients in meaningful employment compared to 15 last year.
- -Nogales has had 29 job openings in AJC/ System. Will not allow comparison.
- -Staff in Nogales have served approximately 265 clients compared to 134 from last year, which registered 85 in AJC compared to 165 from last year.
- We are continuing within an office setting with multiple services, such as job search assistance, referrals to other partners for additional training, faxing, answering unemployment questions, and assisting with the ID ME process which has totaled 813 specific services provided combined.
- TANF is now offering services at the Nogales One-Stop location

Presentation by Miguel Ramos -DES Knowledge Center

Knowledge Center is a state-run website that will be available for internal DES staff to see services and resources that are available state-wide. Iris Castaneda provided an overview of the website and is asking for partners to share any available resources that are available locally to add to their database to have available for all DES staff statewide to use as a referral for clients.

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

State of Arizona/ DERS

Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Services

District 6 – Nogales office, Santa Cruz County

VR Supervisor – M. Elizabeth Kinder, MA

Current data of Successful Closures (post 90 days of employment)

Search criteria: July 01, 2021 - May 01, 2022

VRS has had **12** Successful Closures to date

*****Comparison to last year's data of Successful Closures

Search criteria: July 01, 2020 - May 01, 2021

VRS had **10** Successful Closures

Referral data:

Recent outreach by our team has generated approximately 18 new youth referrals that will turn into Transition School to Work students/ clients in the next school year.

In 2021, there was a slight improvement over 2020 in referrals, but not by very much. 2018 and 2019 were better years for us.

Note: The above numbers are generated from filtering our internal data management system. VR Administration has not provided updated Placement and Closure report data for this FY.

Updates:

VR has finalized a formal date to return to work in the VR office across the State using a hybrid model. VR staff will be returning on July 5th, 2022. In July, all Nogales VR staff will be active in and out of the office working in the community (field) and the office as needed meeting with clients, while also maintaining a home office. Note: Nogales VR office staff have been working in a modified work schedule already, to meet programmatic needs and to maintain a collaborative presence with our

ARIZONA@WORK partners

VR team is working closely and collaboratively within the community, with the local schools, Behavioral Health agencies, Department of Developmental Disabilities, and with ARIZONA@WORK. We are actively looking for additional outreach opportunities to increase referrals.

Outreach Events:

Wednesday, March 30 – C-CREO Rio Rico HS Parent Resource Night

Saturday, April 2 - Autism Awareness Day

Wednesday, April 6 - Child Abuse Walk-a-thon

Thursday, May 5 - Desert Shadow MS Career Fair

Thursday, May 5 - Rio Rico HS (Coach Lopez) VR Presentation

VR Presentations:

Wednesday, March 16 - CHA VR Presentation Zoom

Friday, March 18 - TSW presentation at Wade Carpenter

Thursday, April 28 - Pinal Hispanic Council VR Presentation

Collaboration meetings:

Tuesday, April 19 - Youth Committee Meeting

Cross referrals with ARIZONA@WORK (Titles):

Referrals received: **4**

Job Readiness Training:

Wednesday, April 27 - Launched our first internal JRT (4 workshops) with Nogales client led by our Nogales offices Rehabilitation Technician

5. Directors Report: M. Cervantes

- M. Cervantes announced and thanked all LWDB members for the opportunity she had to be involved with WIOA. She will be retiring beginning June 3rd and leaving with a heavy heart but happy to have had the opportunity to be a part of such a great program.

I. One-Stop Operator – Jim Mize

- John Fanning Superintendent of the Rio Rico High School system reported that new construction at the high school was well underway and in the final stages of completion. There is a lot of construction going on at the school, including lights, pool, median construction and etc. They had 105 students attend their weekend basketball camp. The charge was only 1\$. They will continue this program throughout the summer. On May 3rd, Rio Rico will have a job fair for students. Elizabeth Kinder Voc Rehab asked if outside agencies could attend. The answer was an empathic "yes". John reported they will be hosting a Job Fair on May the 3rd. He has contacted over 50 employers and community partners.
- The number of students at Rio Rico H.S. continues to grow. Rio Rico is holding a "Navigating the recruiting process" for athletes at the high school. John said that the Softball team is going to State competitions.
- I contacted Art Basurto, SER Automotive program manager, about the job fairs and the career fairs being held in the Nogales, Rio Rico area. He will follow up with John Fanning and the CTE Director.
- Elizabeth Kinder, Voc. Rehab. reported 10 closures this year. This is double all of last year and there are still 3 months left in the reporting year! Voc. Rehab. is focusing on outreach to other organizations as well as businesses to solicit opportunities for their clients. The "good news" is they are having 3 outreach events next month.
- In April Elizabeth reported that VR numbers were better in 2021 than in 2020. She did not have any 2022 numbers as of this call.
- Victor Cardenas- DES- Victor will report on his activities. DES is looking for hires in the food processing sector.
- Vanessa Cota- Recently hired as Regional Director for PPEP, NFWJP (National farm Workers Job Program reported PPEP is still working with the laid-off employees in pecan processing layoff. She will be visiting the various sites that she oversees in the near future. They are currently housed at the Santa Cruz One-Stop facility. Additionally, Vanessa said that they are experiencing lower numbers of clients than in years past. She is working to gain more of a presence in the Nogales area. Vanessa is also working with clients who are interested in business microloans. PPEP had a table at the Nogales Marathon which was held in late April.
- Susan Standen, Regional coordinator for the Trade Adjustment Act reported that after 8 months the DOL denied the Pecan growers' layoff as being TAA qualified. TAA argued that the tariffs played a huge role in the plant closure, but the DOL denied the request. Susan reported that Honeywell had delayed its "step" layoff until June. Additionally, she reported there are no new WARN issues for the State.
- Nora Herrera - Adult Education Manager for the Santa Cruz One-Stop reported that they will have a cohort of 130 clients for the Summer program beginning in May. Nora is still having problems with employers not working with students' educational programs and employer work schedules. I told her that this same issue was discussed at the Cochise LWDB meeting last week. Additionally, Nora stated that they are upgrading the Courthouse facility for the students.
- Brian Nelson, Pima College in Nogales will be holding a Career Fair on June 10th from 9-12 a.m. It is technically oriented, IT, Cyber, EMT, etc. He will have full-time faculty, employers, and ex-students that are now working in these fields, speak.
- Miriam Cruz, DES regional manager reported they too have seen a decline in the number of clients presenting for services. Almost 90% of visitors are just signing up for Unemployment. They are not interested in training or job search. The computer and ESL classes are also down in numbers.
- Irasema Olivera - Program Manager for the Nogales One-Stop reported they are doing a lot of outreach in the community for the Adult and Dislocated Worker program. She reported that they have two hiring events in March and that additionally, Strata from North Dakota will be on-site recruiting. This same Company is also recruiting out of the Pima County One-Stop She reported that the LWDB has created a Youth Committee. She is currently looking for committee members. Irasema stated that Tomas, Business Services program is doing outreach to businesses to find more job opportunities.
- Irasema reported they too are experiencing a slow last month and a half. Their unemployment rate is 5.3%. This is twice what it is in other Southeastern counties. Layoffs in the produce industry should

increase their customer flow. They are gearing up for the possible influx of clients. As a side note, laid-off produce workers seem to be used to the cycle of work/ layoff.

- Irasema reported that the NAWDB conference was well attended. Smaller numbers going to the One-Stops are off, around the country. She recommended that next year maybe some Board members could attend.
- In June, the Nogales One-Stop Center will have a State audit that I will assist Irasema with.
- Maritza Cervantes, WIOA Director reported they are busy with the year-end closeout of budgets. She also announced her June 3rd retirement. She will be missed.

J. Board Reports-

- **T. McAlpin:** Provided an update on the event “Standout for Vets” this April in Tucson. Amazed at the opportunities Veterans were able to receive within the event like free haircuts, mortgage assistance, and PTSD dogs present. Update on the Big Brother Big Sister program in Tucson, they are willing to come down and make a presentation when available.
- **C. Young:** Santa Cruz County Gear-up program received a 5.8 million grant that will focus on early childhood education, social-emotional learning, health and nutrition, arts and literacy enrichment program activities, college and career readiness, and a youth internship program and the possibility for a site for childcare in the Sonoita/Elgin area and possibly the option of childcare for county employees.

K. Next Meeting – July 20, 2022, at the Quality Inn Americana Hotel or via Zoom at 12:00 noon

L. Adjournment

- V. Heatherington motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by V. Cardenas and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

WIOA Update up to June 2022/Summary version

7.15.22

Fund	Program	Awarded	Spent	Available	Starting date	Ending date
X727/X728	Youth (In and Out) PY20	511,697.00	379,129.00	132,568.00	4.1.20	6.30.22
	Youth (In and Out) PY21	426,548.00	-	426,548.00	4.1.21	6.30.23
	Total Youth	938,245.00	379,129.00	559,116.00		
X739	Adult PY20	75,646.00	75,646.00	-	7.1.20	6.30.22
	Adult PY21	65,763.00	-	65,763.00	7.1.21	6.30.23
	Adult FY21	377,476.00	143,219.00	234,257.00	10.1.20	6.30.22
	Adult FY22	309,950.00	-	309,950.00	10.1.21	6.30.23
	Total Adult	828,835.00	218,865.00	609,970.00		
X740	Dislocated Worker PY20	55,885.00	55,885.00	-	7.1.20	6.30.22
	Dislocated Worker PY21	55,571.00	-	55,571.00	7.1.21	6.30.23
	Dislocated Worker FY21	251,383.00	167,709.00	83,674.00	10.1.20	6.30.22
	Dislocated Worker FY22	236,458.00	-	236,458.00	10.1.21	6.30.23
	Total Dislocated Worker	599,297.00	223,594.00	375,703.00		
X741	Admin/Youth PY20	56,855.00	56,855.00	-	4.1.20	6.30.22
	Admin/Youth PY21	47,394.00		47,394.00	4.1.21	6.30.23
	Admin/Adult PY20	8,405.00	8,405.00	-	7.1.20	6.30.22
	Admin/Adult PY21	7,307.00		7,307.00	7.1.21	6.30.23
	Admin/Adult FY21	41,942.00	23,727.00	18,215.00	10.1.20	6.30.22
	Admin/Adult FY22	34,439.00		34,439.00	10.1.21	6.30.23
	Admin/Dislocated Worker PY20	6,210.00	-	6,210.00	7.1.20	6.30.22
	Admin/Dislocated Worker PY21	6,175.00		6,175.00	7.1.21	6.30.23
	Admin/Dislocated Worker FY21	27,931.00	-	27,931.00	10.1.20	6.30.22
	Admin/Dislocated Worker FY22	26,272.00		26,272.00	10.1.21	6.30.23
	Total Administration	262,930.00	88,987.00	173,943.00		
	Totals	2,629,307.00	910,575.00	1,718,732.00		
						Up to 6.30.22
						Overall

Note:

PY/FY allocations are based on awards approved by the State according to Contract DI121-002288