

Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 18, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – Approximately 1:30 PM

Location: 155 N Morley Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent	Staff and Guests Present
Sanchez, Dina	Brennan, Richard	Davis, Luis Carlos
Ainza, Kramer Olivia	Acosta, Blanca	
Balderas, Juan	Galaz, Desiree	
Bermudez, Luis	Kinder, Maria Elizabeth	
Skylie, Estep	Osete, Pedro	
King, Karen		
Lucero, Greg		
McAlpin, Tom		
Othon, Guillermo		
Parra PH. D Marcela		
Quick, Ana		
Sandoval, Fernando		
Bustamante, Zaida		
Chavez Mauricio, CMPI		
Guerrero, Karina		
Azcue, Patricia		
Croft Dr Vaughn		
Mize, James		
Nelson, Christine		

A. Call to the Public

- a. Job Corps briefly paused in May due to federal court cases but is now fully operational.
- b. Santa Cruz County youth are active in Job Corps and residing on-site.
- c. All youth programs are open and running.

B. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- a. No public comments.

C. Tabled Items

- a. **Item F** – Tabled (action item).
- b. **Item G** – Updated LWDB bylaws also tabled (action item).

D. Budget Report

Presenter: Mauricio Chavez

- a. Total WIOA funds: **\$699,000; 56% spent.**
- b. Adult Program: **86% spent** (strong progress).
- c. Dislocated Worker: **50% spent** (historically the most difficult to utilize).
- d. Administration: **59% spent.**
- e. Rapid Response PY24: **85% spent**, remaining ~\$15k expected to be fully used.
- f. Overall spending trends **significantly improved** compared to prior years.

Discussion Points

- a. Board acknowledges strong improvement in fund utilization and reduced return of funds.
- b. Goal remains to expend all **eligible** funds by **June 30** fiscal year-end.
- c. Dislocated Worker category remains challenging but performing much better this year.
- d. Staff continues to ensure all expenditures meet WIOA eligibility requirements.

E. Dislocated Worker Program Notes

- a. Eligible individuals include laid-off workers, displaced homemakers, and military-related moves.
- b. Several local workers displaced by regional closures are currently being served.

F. DES Policy & OEO Presentation

- a. Arizona DES Policy Team and the Office of Economic Opportunity attended via Zoom to provide training.
- b. Training covers: eligible expenditures, board expectations, and compliance requirements.
- c. Staff expressed appreciation for the training opportunity.

G. Rio Rico Fire Department Presentation

- a. Chief Chris Renteria presented on firefighting operations, EMT programs, wildland deployments, and academy statistics.

H. One-Stop Operator Report

- a. Report presented; details not provided.

I. Program Reports

- a. Coordinator: Zaida Bustamante. One-Stop Partners: Karina Guerrero. Title II: Marcela Parra. Title III: Zaida Bustamante. Title IV: Not specified.

J. Board Member Updates

- a. Updates included: training access (Fernando Sandoval), successful audit (Patricia Azcue), Workforce Summit (Skylee), agriculture program alignment (Christin Olsen), and additional updates.

K. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Overview included WIOA fundamentals, governance, reauthorization, transparency, ethics, and LWDB responsibilities. The WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs are 100% funded by the Department of Labor, with a total grant amount of \$1,022,512.00. Rapid Response services are 100% funded by the Department of Labor, with a total grant amount of \$325,000.00. 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.