

Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2026 Meeting

Time: 12:00 PM – Approximately 1:35 PM

Location: 155 N Morley Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621

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

A. Call to the Public

- Meeting began at 12:02 pm.
- Pledge of Allegiance conducted.
- Roll call confirmed a quorum.
- Public call included an update from Tucson Job Corps stating they remain open and accepting students.

B. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comments on agenda items.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from the March 18 meeting were approved unanimously.

D. Budget Report – Finance Department

Summary of expenditures as of April 2026:

- Youth: \$436,842 spent; \$262,430 available

- Adult: \$325,738 spent; \$11,577 available
- Dislocated Worker: \$156,307 spent; \$45,829 available
- Administration: \$77,815 spent; \$25,380 available
- Rapid Response: \$96,761 spent; \$8,884 available

Additional Notes:

- County staff has made major improvements in spending down expiring funds.
- Clarification provided regarding Program Year vs Fiscal Year funding structures.

E. WestEd Workforce Strategic Plan Presentation

Presenter: John Brauer, Workforce Project Director

Highlights:

- Multi-month stakeholder engagement across county regions.
- Development of labor market analysis, industry gap analysis, and workforce resource mapping.
- Key issues raised by stakeholders: youth outmigration, lack of aligned systems, housing shortages, childcare needs, and transportation barriers.
- High interest in apprenticeships, CTE, healthcare careers, tourism, and cross-border logistics.

F. Bylaws & Attendance Compliance

- Updated bylaws approved by Board of Supervisors.
- Board emphasized seriousness of attendance requirements to maintain voting quorum.
- Two members identified as non-compliant: Luis Padilla and Pedro Sete.
- Staff instructed to prepare recommendations for Board of Supervisors regarding membership changes.

G. One-Stop Operator Report

- Statewide job fairs remain active and well-attended.
- No WARN notices for Santa Cruz County.
- Attendance challenges exist among Santa Cruz partner agencies.

H. Executive Director Report – Zaida Bustamante

- Preparing new MOU and IFA for July 2026–June 2029.
- Local Plan Modifications due October 30, 2026.
- Promoting Arizona Workforce Summit attendance.

- Expecting 120+ job seekers at upcoming seafood processor hiring event.

I. Title I Program Report

- Significant outreach to schools, fairs, and community events.
- Multiple youth in work experience placements, including Gym Click, PBS Auto, and Nogales FD.
- Increasing push for certifications via Pima College and Job Corps.

J. Apprenticeship Discussion – Major Employer Input

Local employer **Roy Bustamante (HVAC)** raised important concerns:

- Students often lack hands-on experience despite certifications.
- Trades require real-world conditions (heat, heavy labor, field-based problem solving).
- Local small businesses want to train youth but need structured support.
- Strong plea for more local apprenticeships and better alignment with real employer needs.

Board & Staff Response

- Agreement that apprenticeships are underdeveloped in Santa Cruz County.
- State Apprenticeship Office will contact Mr. Bustamante to begin setting up a formal apprenticeship program.
- Desire to support small businesses *at the same level* energy is given to big employers like South32.
- Recognition that many youth prefer hands-on career paths over traditional 4-year college routes.
- Process exists—needs more push, communication, outreach, and employer engagement.

K. Title II, Title III, Title IV, NFJP Reports

- Title II submitted written report.
- Title III not present.
- Title IV (VR) has staffing transitions but continuing services.
- NFJP currently serving 4 participants; increasing outreach in rural areas.

L. Board Member Roundtable

- General updates and reflections provided by board members.

M. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.