

**Workforce Investment Board
Program Planning and Development
Department of Workforce Investment
1880 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA
March 10, 2003, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes**



Members Present: Andrea Baker, Don Bergman, Mike Boardman, Harry Dull, Peter Fluetsch, John Fowler, Scott Galbraith, Carol Greenberg, Gisela Malone, Mike Sullivan

Members Absent: Sharon Cresswell, Kathleen Crookham, Robert McLaughlin, Anne Newins, Ana Pagan, Al Romero

WI Staff Present: Debby Hoban, Ed McLaughlin, Joanne Presnell, Chuck Purcell

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – The Chair called the meeting to order. A sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.
2. **Agenda** – The agenda was approved as published.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of February 26, 2003, will be on the agenda at March 26, 2003 meeting.
4. **Introductions** – None
5. **Public Opportunity to Speak** – None present.
6. **Action Agenda:**
 - a. **Develop a Policy Statement for WIB and Concurrence that Supports, Promotes, and Implements the Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan** – The Chair asked for the feedback from members who have read the executive summaries or any parts of the full report and have any ideas of what is most important as far as priorities for the direction for this committee. Also, for additional comments or concerns as a result of what was read in the executive summaries. Different concerns were discussed including education and health care issues.

Mr. Peter Fluetsch has a concern about what elementary school children will do after school next year. Busing will be discontinued and the kids will have extra time on their hands. There was discussion on Scouting, Boys and Girls Club, and providing positive learning experiences supervised by adults.

Mr. Mike Sullivan expressed concern that health issues were not addressed in the report. Residents are concerned about adequate and quality health care.

Mr. John Fowler stated the task before the committee is to come up with a policy statement that will be accepted by the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the Board of Supervisors (BOS), City Councils, the Board of Education Superintendents and all of the leadership organizations in the community. Have the elected bodies, from whom we need a strong commitment, task the agencies within their departments and perhaps this WIB to move forward

in achieving those things that we prioritize and need to get the job done and charge forward knowing full well that we will have to deal with education issues, as well as with the points anyone else brings up.

Mr. Fowler brought a brochure passed out at the MCEDCO luncheon, which condensed into 3 or 4 pages what is in the 1,100 pages of report. He suggested the committee take this document as a framework. It captures everything the committee is talking about in a short statement to get the board's attention. This committee has got to say most of the work is done here, we looked at the strategy, more detailed workforce, more education in some cases, and it seems to be the direction we want to go. So when people challenge us, "Why are you doing this?" we can fall back on it, this is in conformance with our economic development strategy that is going to bring prosperity. As we work towards our policy, the WIB can say we stand behind it, this does reflect the group's direction.

Mr. Boardman stated that during their trip to Washington D.C., they heard a lot about the economic development and the ties it has with the WIBs around the county and how successful their programs have been when working together. We need to be the beacon to lead the charge; these are the initiatives or recommendations that we received from this report. If we can put our heads together, we can actually define lots of details that can be addressed at the local level.

Ms. Baker stated the Department of Labor is going into three Es: economic development, education, and employment as their mantra. Mr. Boardman made a recommendation to form three adhoc committees, one on education, one on economic development, and one on employment. These adhoc committees would need to take components out of the executive summary and identify what the key priorities are in each of those areas and be the drivers to really push this committee in educating the full board on what we need to accomplish in going forward. Mr. Don Bergman stated the committee needs to go on with the policy, get it accepted by everybody, and then come back and create the adhoc committees.

Mr. Fowler stated the document and its contents will be presented to the BOS sometime in the next few weeks. It is BOS job to accept the document and to accept the final report. What we are suggesting is that the WIB as a whole has a policy statement in support of this document. When the presentation is made to the BOS, the Chairman of the WIB can stand up and say we have accepted the contents of this report and have adopted this policy statement that we present to you today. The education collaborative, Lee Anderson, intends to do the same thing if the WIB is on board. Mr. Bergman suggested the committee come up with a policy summary that covers the most proponents of that, and that we really endorse every bit of that aspect.

Mr. Galbraith stated a one-page summary is included on page 7 of the actual study. It is a one-page handout, the same as the brochure. It has the objectives, vision, and initiatives. Mr. Fowler suggested a need for a lead in paragraph stating that the WIB has reviewed the report and supports, endorses, and asks for the BOS commitment to the following initiatives.

Mr. Galbraith will do a presentation to the full WIB at the March 27th meeting. Following the presentation the Board will be presented with the resolution that asks for their blessing. Mr.

Fowler stated what we need is commitment from the elected bodies, more than what they have given in the past. They need to say this is adopted as your strategic direction for the community for the next five years or whatever the case may be. Then this committee needs to get more into specifics of some of the issues. The WIB already has a bunch of goals and we need to match them up.

It was *M/S/C Bergman/Malone* for Mr. Galbraith to work with the staff of the Workforce Investment Department to create a policy statement and resolution for presentation to the WIB for their approval. The time frame for accomplishment is seven days to allow sufficient time to be included in the WIB package.

The Chair expressed reservations because not all of the Executive Summaries are available for review and we are going to put together a resolution, but do we have a plan how the resolution is managed and implemented once it is presented to the board. Will we have questions from the board on what plans we have in place to make sure it is implemented? Ms. Baker stated we actually have committees in place at the WIB to direct those policy issues, what kind of training you are going to do, what sectors do you want to promote, and how do you want it linked to education and to economic development?

7. Chair Comments: None

8. Next Meeting/Date/Time – Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment (large conference room), 1880 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Debby Hoban