

DIRECTORS NOTES



5/23/02

Local News

- The **WIB has been awarded** the Technical Assistance and Training Grant in coordination with Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce of **\$20,000**. These funds will provide partial funding for a Workforce Academy for small businesses.
- **CAA** has received a WIA 15% Gov. grant of **\$359,644**, to provide 60 dislocated workers with 1. Individual training and small business development support, 2. Technology access for training, e-commerce, networking for mutual benefit, and 3. Mapping community business and economic development resources for small business access. The Department will be subleasing space at the Wardrobe office to the Community Action Agency's Workforce program.
- **Merced Office of Education (MCOE)** has received a Gov 15% grant of **\$626,711**, to provide 110 WIA eligible a risk younger youth, an opportunity to receive training in a certified program that will prepare them for a career in health care, technology, and /or construction. The Department will be subcontracting with MCOE to provide administrative services for the project.
- The Merced One Stop will be expanding its hours Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 9pm, beginning in mid to late June. The ability to provide expanded services and training has come through a grant received by MCOE via the State Department of Education. Additionally, the Department will be making the One Stop resource center available during the same hours.
- The Department completed a fiscal and procurement monitoring by the State of California the week of April 22nd. The Fiscal review included reporting of funds, expenditures, cash management, internal controls and property management, cost allocations, indirect cost rate, payroll payments, operating expenditures, contract payments, One-stop M.O.U.'s and cost sharing agreements, Individual Training accounts and policies, fiscal oversight system and our single audit of sub recipients. Procurement review consisted of a review of our policy and procedures, sole source agreements, Request for Proposals, and contract provisions. A report from the State will be issued within 30 days.
- The Department is developing Business Services for the One-Stop Business customer and has been soliciting feedback from WIB committees. When further developed the concept will be brought through committee to the WIB.

- Building Trades program is still in review for continuance. Merced College, Human Services Agency, the Carpenters Union, Merced Office of Education and the Department will bring recommendations through committee at the conclusions of the deliberations.
- The Department is working with Merced County Department of Mental Health to establish linkages for services at the One Stop.

State/Local News

- The State of California revised all Performance Measures for Younger Youth Diploma rate for June 200 to July 2001. Merced went from a reported 0% to an actual 89.83% performance.
- **Again the performance negotiations for Program Year 2 and 3 of WIA have not progressed.** The State has put out a bulletin indicating they are waiting for another full quarter of data before they proceed. The Work Force Investment Area's from Kern to San Joaquin Counties (excluding Fresno), have collectively submitted performance measures to the State for consideration, that reflect the economy and the labor market of the Central Valley in relationship to the State.
- Re- Designation of the Workforce Investment Areas (WIA's) under a 500,000 population base and Re- Certifications of Local WIB by **the State WIB will be taken up at their meeting on May 30th**. It is our understanding that the recommendations to the State WIB will be that Workforce Investment Areas be re-designated if they meet both performance standards and fiscal integrity standards set by the State WIB. **Merced meets both Standards that will be recommended.** The WIB re-certifications will be linked to the performance of the WIA's. It is therefore anticipated that the Local WIB will be re-designated.

State News

- The Department of Labor will be doing on site review and surveys in California the second week in July. The general Accounting Office will be reviewing Older Worker sites in California. The dates will be June 11th and 12. They will visit one Urban and One rural site. Locals will be notified by the State if they are going to get a visit.
- The next State WIB meeting will be held in Sacramento on May 30th.

State and National News

- The US Department of Labor has established a business relations group. **On June 5th a Nation wide down link will take place with Home Depot.** One Stop partners will be invited to join local Home Depot managers to kick off this initiative. It is expected that One-stop will become first source hiring for the participating business and a national job skills collaborative will begin. Information on how to participate will be forthcoming through the State.
- Dislocated worker recessions are reported to be still coming, with no news or action by the Federal Government at this time.
- The Reed Act transfers of excess funds from the unemployment insurance trust fund will occur today. This is a one-time opportunity for the States. California will receive \$940 million. The State can use it for additional UI benefits, but also to help One Stops. We will keep the WIB informed on the direction EDD will take with the funds they receive. There is a concerted effort to get these funds to support the one stop system.