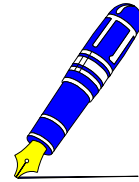


DIRECTORS NOTES

07/08/03



Local News

- Cost-savings measures due to budget reductions have resulted in the Department having to take the following actions: 1) A reduction in force of 16 positions, to include staff that supports the WIB and Youth Council; 2) Consolidation of space (elimination of 2 leases); 3) Reduction of training and travel.;4) Elimination of weekend and evening hours at the One-Stops in Merced and Los Banos; 5) Delay the replacement of computers, software and other equipment; 6) Reduction in the number of vehicles used by the Department; 7) Reduction of the Marketing budget; 8) Reductions of supplies and memberships; and 9) Reduction or elimination of contracted services.
- The Department has received the draft WIA local plan modification instructions for PY 2003-04. Staff has developed a timeline for completion, and will be working through the Program Planning and Policy Committee to complete the plan modification to meet the August 29th deadline. A public hearing is required.
- The Department has received Merced's final performance measures for PY 2002-03 (see attached). The State has also issued a draft announcement of the process to begin negotiations for PY 2003-04 performance levels. Staff will be working through the Quality Assurance Committee to complete local performance proposals for submission to the State by the proposed August 29th deadline. All parties to be consulted will be informed of the process. The State has informed the local areas that the Credential rates and Diploma rate are not negotiable. The LWIA's goals for these measures will be the same as the State goal.
- The Department is working with IBM in their work for the Department of Labor to develop costs for the One-Stop infrastructure. This work is being done in anticipation of WIA reauthorization, and the authorization that governors will have to allocate funds for One Stop infrastructure.
- Merced Workforce Investment Area has received its Monitoring Report for the Fiscal/Procurement Monitoring from the State. All areas were deemed to be satisfactory, however, one finding was noted. Although the WIB has a Partner contribution in each MOU, which has been accepted by the State in the past, a formal cost-sharing agreement is now required. The Department has developed a timeline to develop agreements with each partner and will be working through the Quality Assurance Committee to address this finding.

- The Merced Director has been elected to the Executive Board of the California Workforce Association. This will provide an opportunity for Merced to have influence in the initiation of advocacy, and the agenda of the State Association.

State and National News

- Senate WIA reauthorization begins in the Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Senate majority would like to have a bill for markup by July 30th. While possible, it is more likely that Senate Committee markup of WIA reauthorization legislation will take place in the fall, provided that bipartisan agreement can first be reached on the bill.