

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/15/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Update on Implications for Action – Education, Workforce Housing & Economic Development

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only.

DISCUSSION: The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) presented three Implications for Action as a part of the 2004 State of the Workforce for Merced County. The Implications for Action were offered as “... opportunities and recommendations to be considered, and supports the following actions that need to happen as any action plans are framed around the Regional Strategic Issues.”

Education: At the July 14, 2005 meeting of the WIB, the WIB members who chose to evaluate progress concerning the Education Implication for Action decided to rewrite the Implication. The new verbiage follows:

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board strongly recommends that two related organizations be established and strengthened in order to improve the quality of education in Merced County, and as a result improve Merced County’s workforce and economy.

The first of these organizations, and essentially an umbrella for the second, is a Preschool Through 16 Council (P-16). The Council’s goals include:

- **Supporting continuous increases in academic performance (as outlined in the Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan, Goal 4.30).**
- **Including stakeholders from all levels of education, workforce development organizations, economic development organizations, businesses and others as interested.**
- **Focusing on “macro” issues relevant to schools and the community.**
- **Promoting P-16 communication and collaboration.**
- **Sharing and using data to promote and demonstrate school achievement progress.**

The second organization is the Community Business Alliance. Still in the conceptual stage, it is expected that the Alliance will be linked closely with the P-16 Council, sharing many of the same goals and some of the same members. Planning for the Alliance will focus on:

- **Supporting the development of comprehensive career education services for K-14 students, dropouts and underemployed individuals.**
- **Services will include K-12 career/technical education, career/technical education curriculum development, career/technical student awareness – particularly of career**

pathways and instruction in adult basic skills (including English as a Second language, and Vocational English as a Second Language).

- Membership from business in industry will be targeted.

Workforce Housing: The Workforce Housing Implication for Action has been active. On June 28, 2005, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the creation of a Workforce Housing Taskforce. By the first week in August, the Board had appointed Supervisor Deidre Kelsey as its representative to the Taskforce. At the present time the following individuals have agreed to serve for the Cities on the Taskforce:

Atwater	Mo Khatami	Asst City Manager
Dos Palos	Everett Younce	City Council Member
Gustine	Don Hutchins	City Manager
Livingston	Gerald Forde	City Manager
Los Banos	Ken Hubler	Redevelopment Director
Merced	Masoud Niroumand	Housing Program Coordinator

The following individuals have been forwarded to the BOS for appointment anticipated 9/13.

Christina Alley	Member at Large
Don Borgwardt	Housing Authority
Nelson Crabb	Insurance Industry
Ray Rodriquez	Real Estate Industry
Joe Ramirez	Finance Banking Industry
Don Bergman	Workforce Investment Board
Pete Fluetsch	Workforce Investment Board
Gut Maxwell	Building Industry
Rolli Smith	HUD (Advisor to the Taskforce)

Economic Development is the third Implications for Action. An analysis of the Implication reveals that most of the suggested actions have been completed. The first action—studying successful models of regional economic development collaborations and partnerships was accomplished through visits of WIB members Andrea Baker, John Fowler, and Scott Galbraith to Kings, Tulare and Stanislaus Counties. Additionally, the Director for Workforce Investment in Stanislaus County presented their model to the WIB Executive Committee. The second action—develop and recommending a formal partnership has been accomplished by installing Economic Development partners as members of the WIB. Those partners are now offering an expanded relationship between the Economic Development professionals of the Cities and the County to the WIB, specifically through the Program Planning & Development Committee.

An Implication action which needs attention concerns, “Ensure the complete implementation of the Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan by:

- Reviewing status and recommending action.

Five (5) members of the Program Planning & Development Committee and WIB staff recently reviewed the action during an Economic Development “Brown Bag” meeting. A question arose as to whether the Economic Development Strategic Plan should undergo a plan update, and if an update is undertaken, who would participate.

The Program Planning & Development Committee’s Economic Development Workgroup has been reenergized, and will work with Economic Development professionals to review and update the Workforce Development portion of the Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A