

**Workforce Investment Board
Executive Committee
1880 Wardrobe Ave.
September 20, 2004, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Notes**



Members Present:

John Heading	Albert Montejano	Rick Osorio
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Members Absent:

Kathleen Crookham	Nellie McGarry	Mike Smith
Mike Sullivan		

Others Present:

Andrea Baker	Elaine Craig	Dave Davis
Donna Ornelas	Joanne Presnell	Jackie Walther-Parnell

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Roll was taken by Donna Ornelas. Quorum was not reached. A workgroup was convened. (Please list those in attendance)

- II. Meeting of the Minds Conference – John Heading gave an overview of the CWA Conference that he and Andrea attended in September. There were seven attendees from Merced County, which included representation from Merced College, the WIB, Merced County BEO and MCOE. Mr. Heading shared a copy of a brochure that was used at the conference to develop suggestions to policy makers for the future of California. It was titled “Building Communities with a Competitive Workforce Advantage” which includes seven key characteristics. Mr. Heading noted that his intention is to meet with the committee chairs to review and discuss this document.
 - a. Forward Thinking Community Leaders – This characteristic suggests that WIB members inform and engage the Board of Supervisors, City Council members, Mayors, etc. It was suggested that the message be tailored to the specific areas (cities or county). It was recommended that a special work session be scheduled with the Merced City Council to discuss workforce issues and policy. Ms. Baker noted the message from CWA in response to the CPR is that local control is important and regionalization would be acceptable as long as it was business driven from the local level.
 - b. Business Investment in Human Capital – The P-16 Council, which is a collaboration between education and businesses, will begin to convene meetings this fall after a summer break and is working on this issue.
 - c. Strong and Diverse Economy – This characteristic addresses partnering with our Economic Development entities such as MCEDCO and BEO to work toward business retention and expansion to impact long range change to the economy. The collaboration between workforce and economic development is important on local and regional levels. It was recommend that the WIB continue to review and support the Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan developed by the Chabin Concept group.
 - d. Integrated Infrastructure – The WIB should continue participating in dialogue and policy setting that impact community planning efforts and advocate for changes in public policy and administrative procedure.

- e. Effective, Articulated Education System – It was noted the Governor is in favor of vocational education. Currently there is a debate over academic standards versus vocational education. There should be a set of core academic skills taught for students in the vocational track.
- f. Clearly Defined and Accessible Career Pathways – Currently there are no clearly defined career pathways in Merced County. Ms. Baker shared information from the conference and suggested that the WIB look at career pathways within an industry and across industries. Developing and providing career pathway information to employers and job seekers has been effective in other areas. Mr. Heading stated that it is the responsibility of the WIB to provide employers information about career pathways.
- g. Ready, Willing, and Able Workforce – The WIB should ensure that quality services and training are provided through the One-Stop System. Creating a move up strategy to open up entry-level positions would be beneficial to businesses and job seekers.

III. Next Meeting – October 25, 2004

IV. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.