

TO: Program Planning and Development

DATE: 10/27/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Healthcare Industry Cluster Project Update

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only

DISCUSSION: In May 2005 the Program Planning & Development Committee chose to focus on understanding and addressing local Healthcare needs. The following events have occurred in keeping with this goal:

- A. The Business Services Unit has added a full-time staff member to work directly with the healthcare industry employers. Staff has introduced upgrade On the Job Training (OJT) to Mercy Hospital and is reviewing additional upgrade OJTs.**
- B. On 7/27/05, staff hosted a four-county action-planning meeting between Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Stanislaus and Merced County to conduct a regional study that can be used both locally and statewide to address the feasibility of consistency in medical assistant training and building a lattice to the nursing program.**
- C. On 8/25/05 the Program Planning & Development Committee approved recommending the WIB approve the expansion of the self-sufficiency wage waiver to include applicants who are employed within the Healthcare Industry Cluster and are seeking upgrade services or other Healthcare employment. This action will go to the WIB on November 10, 2005.**
- D. Upon direction of the Program Planning & Development Committee, WIB staff attended the Frontline Workforce Development: Promoting Partnerships and Emerging Practices in Health and Health Care Conference on 9/22/05. The conference introduced “employer-provided” education in which work-based learning is key to enhancing the healthcare industry and recognizes the educational value of experience in practice. Work-based learning is entirely relevant and responsive to the changing healthcare needs while being rigorous enough to be validated by educational institutions.**
- E. On 10/07/05 at the request of the Program Planning & Development Committee, a healthcare focus group convened to discuss the workforce needs of the local healthcare organizations. On October 5, 2005, representatives from New Bethany Rehabilitation (Los Banos), Golden Valley Health Centers (Merced and Stanislaus Counties) and Horizons Unlimited Healthcare (Gustine & Livingston) met for a focused conversation. The organizations shared that most new-hires required extensive in-house re-training and lacked soft-skills, and that external trainings varied considerably in quality.**

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A