

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 7/25/02

FROM: Executive Board

For Action

For Information

Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: Interface With Congressional Candidates

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Discussion

DISCUSSION: Current State legislators and candidates for State and Federal elected offices have been invited to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) meeting on July 25, 2002. Purpose is to discuss workforce issues that are of importance to the WIB.

Attached for your information are the following:

- a. Talking points to be discussed with legislators and candidates.**
- b. Guidelines/consultation from County Counsel.**
- c. Sample letter to legislators/candidates.**

ATTACHMENT(S):

**Talking Points
Guidelines
Sample Letter**

**Protocols
for
Candidates Invited to the Workforce Investment Board Meeting**

- 1. Subject matter should be within the Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) jurisdiction.**
 - **Issues that pertain to WIB's jurisdiction**
 - **Issues that support other organizations that relate to the WIB's jurisdiction**
 - **Issues that benefit the citizens of Merced County**
- 2. All candidates should be treated the same. A neutral approach should be taken.**
- 3. Agendize candidates' part of the meeting, and stay within the agenda.**
- 4. Maintain adherence to the Brown Act.**
 - **72 hours notice of agenda items**
 - **Orderly**
 - **Not politicized**

TALKING POINTS WITH LEGISLATORS AND CANDIDATES

Federal Issues:

- **The reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) will be considered in 2003. Workforce Investment has become a critical issue for Economic Development. The ability to impact local communities for both Workforce and Economic Development can best be accomplished when programs are locally driven by a Private sector lead Board. Reauthorization should keep and enhance locally driven flexible programs.**
- **The funding for Workforce Development has been reduced in Dislocated Worker program. The reason given has been the amount of unspent funds in the system. The large amount of unspent funds in the system has been attributed to the large cities. Areas that have expended their funds, such as Merced, are penalized with a reduced allocation. Consideration for these disparities needs to be addressed in policy for reallocation of unspent funds in reauthorization and not in Appropriations.**

State Issues:

- **The new proposed State Department of Labor is supported. An avenue for Local WIB input in its development is recommended.**
- **When State funds are distributed to their jurisdiction, coordination with local WIB's would enhance system building and would avoid duplication of services.**

Local Coordination and Successes:

- **One Stop Career center system – WORKNET of Merced County is operating in Merced, Los Banos and Livingston.**
- **RN program expansion is a private sector, government, and education collaboration that has doubled the size of the pipeline to create RN's and address the critical shortage in Merced County.**
- **The Youth Employability Card is a WIB initiative that will be taken over as a partnership between education and the business community to set standards for young people entering the job market**
- **Enterprise Zone and LAMBRA vouchers have created \$ 15,500,000.00 potential tax dollars saved per year for Merced County Businesses.**
- **INVITATION TO COMMUNITY EVENT COSPONSORED BY MECEDCO AND Merced County WIB August 29th, 2002. 8:30 to 5:00, FEATURING ED BARLOW, FUTUREST.**

"Merced County's Workforce Investment system will pace with the new growth, the emerging economy, and the ever changing need of the employers by creating a better educated, highly skilled workforce, that's capable, and prepared, and thoroughly knowledgeable."



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**
MERCED COUNTY

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July 16, 2002

Mr. Jeff Denham
1907 Princeton Court
Salinas, CA 93906

Dear Mr. Denham,

The Workforce Investment Board of Merced County would like to let you know of important issues that are of concern to them. Our 42-member private sector led Board has the oversight of the Workforce Development system in Merced County. With that responsibility the Board has become a catalyst to promote program innovation and local collaborations. Additionally, the Board has the responsibility to provide Labor Market Information to local businesses and the community that may be of use to you in the future. I have attached the talking points that the Board wishes to share with you at our July 25th meeting.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to attend the upcoming Workforce Investment Board of Merced County meeting on July 25, 2002. We understand your busy schedule and are pleased that you understand the importance of workforce issues to our community. The Board meeting is scheduled as follows:

Workforce Investment Board Meeting

***Where: Merced County Board of Realtors Board Room
635 W. Main Street, Merced***

When: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at 724-2007.

Sincerely,

Andrea T. Baker, Executive Director
Workforce Investment Board

ATB/ddh

Attachments

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