

DIRECTORS NOTES



7/25/02

Local News

- ***Save The Date*** Merced County WIB and Merced County Economic Development Corporation will be cosponsoring a community event on August 29th, 2002, 8:30 to 5:00, featuring Ed Barlow, Futurest.
- The Youth Employability Card is being advertised and promoted by the WIB.
- Enterprise Zone and LAMBRA vouchers for 2001 totaled 533 vouchers issued. Vouchers have created a potential \$15,500,000 tax dollars saved per year for Merced County Business. This brings the total vouchers issued from 1997 to 2001 to 2038 vouchers issued, and total potential tax dollars saved of \$54,500,000.00.
- Rapid Response funds application has been submitted. The application is for \$387,815 and primarily covers required Rapid Response activities. These activities are to respond within 5 days of becoming aware of permanent closures, mass layoffs and natural or other disasters that result in mass job dislocations.
- The Department completed a fiscal and procurement monitoring by the State Compliance Monitoring Section of California Employment Development Department the week of April 29th, 2002. The Fiscal review concluded that, “overall, Merced LWIA is meeting applicable WIA requirements concerning fiscal management”. Procurement review concluded that there were two findings:
1) Merced contracts lacked 4 required contract provisions. All four provisions have been added to Merced PITD contract boilerplate. 2) Merced handled an invitation to bid, resulting in only one respondent as a competitive procurement and it should have been handled as a failed competition with a sole source procurement resulting in a sole source contract. A corrective action plan has been submitted to the state to insure that procedures are in place and cost/ price analysis are documented on sole source contracts.
- Building Trades program has been terminated. The funding partners, Merced College, Human Services Agency, and PITD determined that interest from eligible Calworks and WIA customers was not sufficient to sustain continued funding for this program. A close out report will be provided to the WIB. Other options for building trades training are available through, the Merced County Housing Authority, Merced Office of Education or Madera County.
- The telephone system for the Department and the One Stop Centers is adding a feature for Spanish language messaging and greetings to better serve our

monolingual customers.

- The Department is continuing its work with Merced County Department of Mental Health to establish linkages for services at the One Stop.
- The Department has agreed to participate with in-kind and in advisory reviews of MCOE's Regional Occupation Program Industry Certification proposal for A+ certification through the Computer Service and Repair Course.
- The H1B grant application for \$2,998,000 has been resubmitted to the Department of Labor.

State/Local News

- The continuing saga -The performance negotiations for Program Year 2 and 3 of WIA have not progressed. The State submitted their proposal to the Federal Government on June 11, 2002. The Feds have thirty days to respond to the State. No information has been received at the local level as of 7/17/02. The Work Force Investment Areas from Kern to San Joaquin Counties (excluding Fresno), have collectively submitted performance measures to the State for consideration that reflect the economy and the labor market of the Central Valley in relationship to the State.
- The State Workforce Investment Board adopted the following policies regarding Re- Designation of the Workforce Investment Areas (WIA's) under a 500,000-population base and Re- Certifications of Local WIB on May 30, 2002.
 1. Re: Subsequent designation of Temporary Local Workforce Investment Areas: " Subsequent designation of Temporary or Board designated Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) shall be granted until June 30, 2005, upon a Temporary LWIA's achievement of at least 80% of 9 out of 11 locally negotiated performance measures (excluding 2 customer service measures and 4 credential and diploma measures)" *It is anticipated Merced will meet this criteria.*
 2. RE: Local Workforce Investment Board re-certification: "A Local Workforce Investment Board may be recertified by December 2002 for two years based upon meeting the membership criteria, as described in the Workforce Investment Act Section 117, and its designated Local Workforce Investment Area achieving 80% or higher in at least 9 of 11 locally negotiated performance measures (excluding 2 customer service measures and 4 credential and diploma measures)"
- The California Workforce Association "Meeting of the Minds" conference in Monterey is September 11-13. The theme is "Getting our message out." Please let the Director or Chair know if you are interested in attending.

State News

- The State WIB adopted Strategic Goals. They are:
 1. To ensure that all partners have the most timely, relevant information about changing workforce needs and investment opportunities.
 2. To be an effective partner and advocate, and bring system partners together.
 3. To create, nurture and reward a culture of innovation.
 4. To raise the quality of the “field of practice” and performance of the overall workforce development system.
 5. To ensure administrative excellence, including compliance with WIA requirements, to support achievement of all strategic goals.

State and National News

- Dislocated worker rescissions have been initiated by the Department of Labor. The State of California allocation for 2002 was reduced 23 million dollars. Merced County allocation was reduced by \$254,424. The reported supplemental appropriations bill is stalled.
- The Reed Act transfer of excess funds from the unemployment insurance trust fund transferred \$940 million to California. The State can use it for additional UI benefits, but also to help One Stops. State legislation is being considered regarding the disbursement of these funds.