

**Workforce Investment Board of Merced County**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Department of Workforce Investment (Small Conf Rm)**  
**1880 W. Wardrobe Ave, Merced, CA**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2005, 7:30–9:00 a.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**



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**Members Present:** Andrea Baker, John Fowler, Alfonse Peterson (Vice Chair), Vann (Mike) Smith (Chair)

**Members Absent:** Lee Andersen, Ed Anderson

**Staff Present:** Dee Knight, Joanne Presnell, Jackie Walther-Parnell

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1. **Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. A sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.
2. **Approve Agenda:** It was *M/S/C Fowler/Peterson* to approve the agenda as published.
3. **Approve Minutes (October 27, 2004):** It was *M/S/C Peterson/Baker* to approve the October 27, 2004 minutes with the following correction to Item 5a: Delete “the Youth Council Operations Committee be reestablished”, and replace with “a Contract Oversight Working Group for all youth contracts be established”.
4. **Public Opportunity to Speak:** None.
5. **Discussion:**

**a. How the Workforce Investment Board May Best Influence Education to Better Prepare Youth for Entry into the Workforce:** The Chair noted Dr. Fore has invited him, Ms. Nellie McGarry and Ms. Kathy Hassett to Atwater High School on February 10, 2005, to observe an educational softskills program they have developed for students not attending college.

Mr. John Fowler noted in a planning session, the focus was on how to influence our youth to continue their education by attending a technical or trade school. Employers considering locating in Merced County are requiring that specific courses relating to their trade be taught in our high schools and community college before they commit to locating in this area.

Ms. Andrea Baker noted she would like to see the Merced community develop a program somewhat like the San Bernardino Alliance group (a collaboration of workforce, business and education), which focuses on one specific need of the community and each entity of the group develops a program to attack that need. They meet quarterly to report what strides are made in minimizing the need before attacking another issue, and to report the various monetary contributions that were made.

**6. Information Agenda:**

**a. Fiscal Report/Contracts Status Report:** Staff provided handouts of the Allocations, Obligations and Expenses for FY 2004/05 (July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005) through December 31, 2004,

gave a brief description of each program category and overview of the report, and answered specific questions.

Ms. Baker noted for FY 2005/2006 there is a 1% increase in Dislocated Worker, and a 1% decrease in both Youth and Adult allocations at the Federal government level. The State allocation is expected sometime in March 2005. The Employment Development Dept stopped collecting data on dislocations for agriculture and government, which will significantly impact the Central Valley.

In the near future, some direction and guidance from the Finance Committee and Youth Council will be needed in recommending to the State a percentage allocation for the In-School and Out-of-School Programs.

**7. Chair Comments:** The Chair asked if any items discussed should be brought to the Executive Committee on Monday, January 31, 2005. No recommendations were made.

**8. Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting is February 23, 2005, 7:30-9:00 a.m., in the Wardrobe Small Conference Room.

**9. Adjourn:** It was *M/S/C Peterson/Baker* to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Devilla D. Knight.