

**Workforce Investment Board
Program Planning and Development Committee
Merced Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
690 W. 16th Street, Merced, CA
February 23, 2005, 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.
Meeting Minutes**



Members Present: Andrea Baker, Nicholas Benjamin, Don Bergman, Sharon Cresswell, Phil Flores, Peter Fluetsch (Vice Chair), John Fowler, Scott Galbraith, Carol Greenberg, Anne Newins, Rick Osorio (Chair),

Members Absent: Al Romero, Thomas Tsubota

Others Present: Karen Col-Hamm – Merced College, Elaine Craig, Dave Davis, Harry Gossett – Merced College, Dee Knight, Joanne Presnell, Candace Steelman – MCAG, Karyn Wiens – Merced College/Co-Chair of WLT

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.

2. Agenda: It was *M/S/C Fluetsch/Fowler* to approve the agenda as published.

3. Approve Minutes (January 26, 2005): It was *M/S/C Fluetsch/Baker* to approve the January 26, 2005 minutes as written.

4. Public Opportunity to Speak: None.

5. Action Agenda:

a. Registered Nurse Contract Renewal: Staff noted this is to approve continuation of the Registered Nurse (RN) Program with Merced College. Merced College Dean of Instruction Mr. Harry Gossett noted the contract cost increased because of the increase in the staff's benefit package (medical/health/welfare) and provided backup material.

Ms. Karen Col-Hamm, Assistant Director of the Nursing Program, noted she has submitted a grant that will increase funding to help the nurses be more successful in the program and hopefully keep them in Merced County. She also provided information on the diversity grants received for the program. It was noted that since the two hospitals merged, there has been a problem in attracting and keeping nurses, which should be a concern of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and those in charge at Mercy Hospital.

It was *M/S/C Benjamin/Flores (abstain Newins)* to recommend to the WIB approval of continuing the RN Program.

b. Licensed Vocational Nurse Contract Renewal: Staff noted this is to approve continuation of the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Program with Merced College, and is much like the RN Program—it's very successful too. Ms. Col-Hamm noted the LVNs have jobs before they graduate.

It was *M/S/C Bergman/Benjamin (abstain Newins)* to recommend to the WIB approval of continuing the LVN Program.

The Chair invited Ms. Col-Ham to give a presentation at the WIB meeting on March 10, 2005, 3-5 p.m.

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

6. Information Agenda:

a. Worknet Leadership Team Presentation: Ms. Karen Wiens provided handouts and gave an informative update on the functions of the Worknet Leadership Team (WLT). She encouraged and invited committee members to visit the WLT website and to attend a meeting.

The Chair asked that Ms. Wiens also give a presentation at the WIB meeting.

b. One Voice Presentation: Ms. Candace Steelman noted One Voice a group of 18 people from Merced County (both public and private sector) that was formed in August 2004 to create a legislative plan to go to Sacramento and Washington, D. C. to ask for funding for priority projects. The list of priority projects pertains to Economic Development, Water and Workforce Development. It was agreed that Merced's main priority project would be the Campus Parkway. They were in Sacramento on February 8th and 9th, and will be going to Washington, D. C., on Sunday, February 28, 2005, to meet with several legislators. Everyone going is paying his or her own way.

In Sacramento, they met with the legislators and/or staff in one large room and found that throughout the Valley the issues are quite common. There were 11 speakers from the State talking on a myriad of issues—regulations, business climate and workforce. Nine of the 11 speakers addressed one major issue, and that was the Workforce and its quality—we need more vocational education. Other Valley legislators want to support our priorities because they have similar priorities in economic issues, in water and transportation.

7. Selection of Industry Sector - Construction: The Chair noted that since the decision was made to support the construction trades, nothing has been done. Staff noted there has been no activity from the Department on this program because of the cost for Firm Build is \$13,000, and the maximum the Department can contribute to an individual is \$4,500 (ITA). After finding out how much they would have to contribute, participants select another program.

It was recommended that maybe one specific skill of the construction trade should be selected. The Chair asked staff and members to research some of the specific skills—carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC or specific skills within the Healthcare field—and present the information at the next meeting.

8. Chair Comments: None.

9. Other Comments: Ms. Andrea Baker announced this would be the last meeting for Ms. Elaine Craig. She will begin her new job as Executive Director of the Madera County Workforce Development Office on Monday, February 28, 2005.

10. Next Meeting Date/Time: The next meeting is March 23, 2005, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Merced Chamber of Commerce, 690 W. 16th Street, Merced.

11. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.