

ITEM I.B. – ACTION

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brewer, Bob
Burton, Winston
Gardner, Matt
Giggleman, Martha
Johnson, David
Johnson, Tamara
Keating, Jerry
Kennerk, Daniel
Kern, Bruce
Lee, Steve
Padilla, Jose
Paxson, James
Sims, Luke
Walters, Dan
Woo, Theresa

MEMBERS ABSENT

Baker, Ken
Baldovinos, Yolanda
Bryant, Guy
Crosswell, Ken
Devlin, Doug
Harris, Joyce
Jordan, Sheila
Lee, Clare
Marshall, Brigitte
Meyer, Helen
Raty, Scott
Robertson, Laurie
Sutton, Chad
Vance, Octobere

STAFF PRESENT

Castro, Patti
Fox, Flo
Bertuccelli, Roy
Flores, Rosario
Harkess, David
Myers, Jane
Slater, Linda

Luke Sims, Vice-Chair, on behalf of Ken Baker, Chair, called the meeting of the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board to order at 9:13 AM on Thursday, December 13, 2007. A quorum was present.

ITEM I.B. – MINUTES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY WIB FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2007. A motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2007 was made by **Brewer/Padilla/carried.**

ITEM I.C. – WIB CHAIR REPORT. Vice-Chair Sims announced that Chairperson Ken Baker has a new position at Novartis and is not able to make today's WIB meeting, but will be back in 2008. Scott Raty, formerly with Hayward Chamber of Commerce, is now the President of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and will continue as a WIB member. Yolanda Baldovinos is the Interim Social Services Agency Director for Alameda County, who is replacing Chet Hewitt on the WIB, but could not attend today. We have a new WIB member pending under the transportation seat – Elaine Kurtz, Human Resources Manager with BART.

ITEM I.D. – COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS.

Vice-Chair Luke Sims, on behalf of Ken Baker, Executive Committee Chair, gave a report on the November 27 Executive Committee. The executive Committee discussed two items, an EastBay Works Inc. lawsuit, and the need to advocate for workforce legislation.

Jane Myers, on behalf of Helen Meyer, Workforce Systems Committee Chair, stated the Committee met on November 14, 2007 and two Action Items were discussed. They will be voted on at today's meeting.

Bruce Kern, Economic Development & Employer Services (EDES) Committee Chair, stated the Committee met on November 7, 2007 & gave a brief update.

Brenda Johnson, Youth Policy Council (YPC) Chair, provided a brief update on the Youth Policy Council meeting action items.

ITEM I.E. – DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Patti Castro, Assistant WIB Director, stated the **East Bay Indicators Report for 2007** (handout) is from Bruce Kern's office, and she thanked him. .

P. Castro attended the **California Workforce Association meeting on December 5-6, 2007** in San Diego and got an update on a lot of things that are happening in California and across the country. Both Bruce Kern and Luke Sims mentioned advocacy, and she spoke to the advocacy work that is being done by WIB staff on the Board's behalf and some of the things that have already been done.

In reference to **WIA reauthorization**, it is likely that no reauthorization will be passed in this Congress. There is no one championing it right now, and there are a lot of bigger budget issues that Congress and the Administration is dealing with.

In reference to the **Rescission**, embedded in the House Bill that went to the President in which he vetoed, was money for the Workforce Investment Act, which included the \$335 million rescission. There were not enough votes to override it, and it looks like we are going to have to live with the Rescission. The advocates at California Workforce Association and the County feel it is better to try and mitigate new caps at home locally but also in California. The California Workforce Association is putting together a "Hit the Hill" event in February 2009, and our Congressional delegation in Washington will be in attendance. P. Castro will be attending and working with Bruce Kern. They will talk some more about the meeting of the delegation here in the Bay Area in January 2009.

On Page 84 of the Board packet, we were successful in getting a response from Barbara Boxer. We did send **letters about the Rescission to Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein**. P. Castro thanked Jose Padilla and his organization through his network of labor representatives that supported more funding for the WIA program. George Miller is the Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee.

The PAL (Personnel, Administration and Legislative) Committee of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors had the Workforce Investment Act on their agenda on December 3, 2007 and it went very well.

There is another rescission, what they are calling the "California Holdback", in addition to the one going on nationally. The State did not receive 100 percent of what they had anticipated from the Department of Labor. They are implementing a 2% holdback across the board that affects all local areas. In Alameda County, it looks like we could absorb the 2% in our budget without affecting our contractors.

In reference to **WIA program announcements**, the State came in October 2007 and did a program monitoring of our adult and dislocated workers programs. We passed the monitoring findings, and the providers who participated were thanked.

The **Local Plan** (Action Item IV.A.) will be discussed today and is ready for signature and submission to the State.

In reference to **grants still pending**, we have four grants that we have not heard on. The State has made the decisions on Rapid Response Special Projects (Alameda County has a project pending for \$221,500 – business strategy with a lot of incentives for working with businesses/employers). It should be announced this week. There was only \$3 million to roll out, and that is not a lot in California. They did have to make some tough decisions between business services goals and LMI models versus hard projects that serve dislocated workers. We have not heard anything on the Community Based Job Training Initiative with Eastbay Works and Ohlone College (\$2 million regional grant). The State NEG Grant is supposed to serve the financial mortgage industry. We are tracking that, as it has been submitted to Washington, D.C. The 15% Governor's solicitation for Youth Gang Diversion has been announced, and we are hoping that our community providers get some applications submitted.

We have a **new site manager for the Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center** in Pleasanton – John Alves, who was present.

Winston Burton announced that there currently is a **General Assistance (GA) meeting** being held regarding Alameda County's cutting people on General Assistance from 12 months to 6 months. Out of 8,000 people, 6,000 are being affected on January 8, 2008. He thinks it will have a big impact for the one-stops, community, health department and the criminal justice system.

Dave Johnson announced that there was another headline today about the **State budget deficit** and asked staff if there was any general fund or direct State funding for any of our programs that could be affected. P. Castro answered that what she understands is at the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) convention held in Oakland a couple of weeks ago, that it really is going to be a bloodbath in terms of money. Local money might be taken back by the State. We don't see any discretionary money available, other than the Gang Diversion right now under WIA

ITEM II – PRESENTATION. Vice-Chair Sims introduced Devla Singh, EDD, Labor Market Information Division, San Francisco Bay Region who gave a presentation on the East Bay / Alameda County Labor Market Information. The current economic trends in Alameda County combined with the metro division, which is Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, were outlined in a detailed powerpoint presentation.

ITEM III – PUBLIC FORUM. No public input.

ITEM IV – CONSENT ITEMS. A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by **Kern/Brewer/carried.**

ITEM V.A. – LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PY 07-08.

Patti Castro presented the item. There was one interesting comment on the document from one organization, National Economic Development Law Center. There was a lengthy internal discussion on some of their recommendations, issues were sorted out and responses prepared. At this juncture, we are not recommending any policy changes in the Plan. Dave Johnson stated he felt at the policy level, it is worth some discussion, whether it's the Youth Policy Council or EDES Committee. Bruce Kern stated it was an item to be scheduled in the future, so we are informed on it. He appreciates that the National Economic Development Law Center has brought it to the WIB's attention and is totally satisfied with staff's response.

Vice-Chair Sims opened the public hearing, and with no input, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the Local WIA Eighth-Year Plan / PY 07-08 Modifications for submission to the State and authorize the ACWIB Chairperson to sign the document was made by **Keating/Burton/carried.**

ITEM V.B. – ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER REFUNDING CRITERIA: JOB SEEKER. Jane Myers presented the item. Background was provided. This year we have two proposals out – North Cities and Eden Area, so they are exempt from this process. They have to competitively bid for their resources for next year. The criteria is the absolute minimum that a one-stop could do to be considered for refunding. We have contractual expectations that everybody meet their goals by 100%, but in order to be funded, we are suggesting 80%. If the one-stops make their goals prior to June 30th, they can begin to contract, and if not, we will have to come back in July 2008 to the Workforce Systems Committee to discuss what to do. If a one-stop is significantly missing their goals and we know that in April 2008, we will come in April and try and remedy the situation.

Winston Burton asked if the one-stops have any input on the criteria. Jane Myers answered that this was discussed at the Workforce Systems Committee, and the one-stops had an opportunity to participate then. Every one-stop is represented here today as well. This is the same criteria that we used last year, and we are not recommending any changes.

Vice-Chair Sims opened the public hearing, and with no input, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the one-stop career center refunding criteria as listed and approve the process defined in the item was made by **D. Johnson/Padilla/carried.**

ITEM V.C. – ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER REFUNDING CRITERIA: EMPLOYER SERVICES.

Roy Bertuccelli presented the item. Background was provided. This item has been an issue for over two years now. Over the last two years, there have been numerous ad hoc committee meetings and participation from both the EDES Committee and Workforce Systems Committee to come up with what we thought would be acceptable to determine whether or not a refunding criteria should even be put into place for business services. Two criteria – passing the monitoring, is already included in the one-stop refunding criteria. But the business customer satisfaction rate (75%) is the only thing we impose on this Board by the State. So to hold the one-stops to anything higher than the State is holding us responsible for, probably wouldn't be fair. Several discussions and comments were provided by WIB members.

Roy Bertuccelli added that we try to keep in line with the four sectors that this Board has chosen – IT, biotech, health care, automotive manufacturing, and anything else that fits within the President’s 12 high growth industries, because they are high growth, high demand and high wage. The idea is to stay within what this Board defines as key sectors, and that is identified to the labor market information we receive. We have established great relationships through each one stop and with each of their respective economic folks

Vice-Chair Sims opened the public hearing, and with no input, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve criteria 1 and 2 for refunding of the one-stop career centers was made by **S. Lee/Walters/carried.**

ITEM V.D. – REVISED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNT (ITA) AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT) POLICIES.

Roy Bertuccelli presented the item. Background was outlined. There was some discussion at the Workforce Systems Committee meeting on November 14, 2007 as to waivers. P. Castro stated that staff has discussed waivers internally and there are a lot of individuals who have their own situations, and staff felt we couldn’t present an item on waivers yet, because there are so many contingencies. The focus of this item is to deal with what is available in the budget and looking what else is going on related to training. When we take this to the one-stops, they are going to have their own feelings about it. Staff decided to take the whole discussion of waivers and bring it back before June 30, 2008. Any waiver policy will probably be implemented on July 1, 2008.

Vice-Chair Sims opened the public hearing.

The following spoke to the item:

Monique Perkins, Site Manager, North Cities One-Stop Career Center
Linda Barbaro, Site Manager, Eden One-Stop Career Center

Roy Bertuccelli explained the process of receiving ITA dollars for training. After some discussion, a motion to approve the revised policies numbers 1-6 for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I Individual Training Accounts (ITA) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) Contracts was made by **S. Lee/D. Johnson/carried.**

Vice-Chair Sims stated that these last several items demonstrate how important the work that is done at the Committee level and encouraged all WIB members to join a Committee. You can participate at that level and influence that process. He found his experience on the EDES Committee to be very, very educational.

ITEM VII – ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Patti Castro spoke on the General Assistance Forum being held in Oakland this morning.

The next WIB meeting is on March 13, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.