

ITEM I.B. – ACTION

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Baker, Ken – Chair
Burton, Winston
Cota, Susan
Devlin, Doug
Gardner, Matt
Giggleman, Martha
Hebenstreit, Karl
Hodge, Jason
Johnson, David
Keating, Jerry

Kern, Bruce
Kidwell, Corey
Padilla, Jose
Paxson, James
Raty, Scott
Sims, Luke
Vance, Octobere
Woo, Theresa
Woytak, Felicia

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brewer, Bob
Cornu, Sharon
Fogelquist, Jim
Hewitt, Chet
Jones, Marie
Jordan, Sheila
Kelly, Jim

Kelly, Jim
Lee, Steve
Meyer, Helen
Sparks, Glen
Sutton, Chad
Verzantvoort, Andrea
White, Mike

Ken Baker, Chair, called the meeting of the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board to order at 9:11 AM on Thursday, December 8, 2005. A quorum was present.

ITEM I.B. – MINUTES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY WIB FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005. A motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2005 was made by **Woo/Kern/** **carried.**

ITEM I.C. – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT. Ken Baker, Chair, introduced new WIB member, Corey Kidwell from The Pier Group. Two WIB members, Craig Johnson, Vice-Chair, and Jon Hillhouse, San Jose Job Corps, have resigned due to moving out of the area, and retirement. Any WIB member interested in becoming WIB Vice-Chair, should contact Dorothy Chen, so that a nomination slate can be done, with a WIB Vice-Chair election in March 2006.

Brenda Johnson, Youth Policy Council (YPC) Chair, stated the YPC met on October 17, 2005 and the two action items they discussed and approved (V.C. – WIA Youth Refunding Criteria for PY 2006/2007 and V.D. System Support Funding for PY 2005/2006) are on today’s Board agenda.

Dorothy Chen, WIB Director, on behalf of Helen Meyer, Workforce Systems Committee Chair, stated there are two action items and one consent item from the Committee on today's agenda. There was a discussion on common measures that are mandated by legislators. The criteria is being changed, with major changes to the youth program. It's a complicated process. Programs have been given training, and will continue with training until this whole process unfolds.

The Economic Development & Employer Services (EDES) Committee and Executive Committee did not meet due to lack of action items.

ITEM I.E. – DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Dorothy Chen gave an update on **WIA reauthorization**. We are going into the fourth year without reauthorization, but we are hoping that it will happen in 2006.

We have received the **Walter Johnson grant**. This is the first private sector foundation money that we have ever received. The entire amount of \$225,000 is going to the Career Pathways program providers.

In reference to the **Veterans Employment Assistance Program (VEAP)**, it's been a rocky start. Because the funding was so restrictive, we have only been able to serve 17 people out of the required 32. Therefore, a campaign was launched with a private firm that we hired (note Page 85 of the Board packet). We could not meet the numbers, so the State has asked us to stop enrolling and keep the number we have served.

Two **one stop career center staff** were introduced -- Jane Fisher, Vice President of Rubicon, who is with the North Cities One Stop Career Center, and Yvonka Headley, Site Manager of the Tri-Cities One Stop Career Center in Newark.

D. Chen thanked all WIB members for their participation and active support throughout the year for staff and herself and happy holidays to everyone.

ITEM II – PUBLIC FORUM. Devla Singh replaced Idell Weydemeyer as the new Labor Market Consultant for Alameda County. She stated that WIB members can contact her for any labor market information questions or visit their website. Monthly press releases will be sent out that will show industry data changes in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and she also passed out a fact sheet with her business card so you can contact her. She is located on the 3rd floor at the Eden Area One Stop Career Center.

ITEM III – PRESENTATION. Bruce Kern introduced Steve Wood, Chief Economist at Insight Economics, who did a presentation on the national economy, with a focus on California as a state, specifically about the Bay Area (the East Bay in particular).

ITEM IV – CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM. A motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item was made by **Kern/Vance/carried.**

ITEM V.A. – PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER INCENTIVE FUNDS. Jane Myers presented the item. When the actual dollars are received, the approved process for distribution will then be implemented. Mary Miller, Eden Area One Stop Career Center site manager, explained items they purchased last year (approximately \$3,600.00) – kiosk with materials, gas cards, etc. There is a wish list for videos/books in developing some of the workshops.

These funds are based on performance measures that the Department of Labor has under the Act, and at this point, none of those includes business services. There has been no incentives for business or employer services. That might be something the EDES Committee might like to look at.

Chairperson Baker opened the public hearing, and with no input, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the process outlined in this item to reward the one-stop career centers that exceeded their performance measures was made by **Keating/Devlin/carried (Cota/Vance recused)**.

ITEM V.B. – CRITERIA FOR ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER RE-FUNDING FOR PY 2006/2007. Jane Myers presented the item. Bruce Kern stated he is not prepared to vote on this and feels this should be going to the EDES Committee and come back to the WIB at its March 2006 meeting. Jane Myers suggested one option is for the WIB to agree to this criteria but to add to the motion that they want the EDES Committee to add a criteria also that addresses the business and employer services. This would then give us the opportunity to go back and work with the EDES Committee, because if you wait another cycle, you will have the criteria approved the same month you are actually approving the refunding of the one-stops.

Jerry Keating added that this was discussed at the Workforce Systems Committee, and the focus was to follow the federal guidelines that were previously established. Bruce Kern appreciates the work the Workforce Systems Committee is doing, but just doesn't want to wait another year before we have this conversation. If we can move forward with the ability to do some fine tuning, then he is comfortable with that.

Jane Myers pointed out that under #1 and 2, there are certification criteria that include how employer services are offered in the one-stops, and also pass an employer services monitoring. If the WIB felt strongly, we could look at other criteria at the EDES Committee. Dave Johnson added that they do have some measures the EDES Committee has been working on which are parallel to this. We might need to integrate that into this, since we already do have some of those measures in place, and bring them together.

Chairperson Baker made a recommendation that what Bruce Kern brought to the table, expand the language, keeping in mind of staying in conformance with the federal mandate, to address the other part of the employer services, so that you clarify some strategy around and incorporating a discussion with the EDES Committee (maybe a directed strategic effort to put in measures so that it is captured and then move forward with that additional or agreement that the language would expand to address Bruce Kern's concern). We pick it up in the EDES Committee, not lose time, because we will have to show compliance and performance measures against the federal mandates.

Chairperson Baker opened the public hearing, and with no input, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the item as it stands with an added recommendation that the EDES Committee develop refunding criteria for the one-stop career centers around employment services (come back to WIB in March with the data that supports the matrix/criteria) was made by **Kern/Johnson/carried (Cota/Vance recused)**.

ITEM V.C. – WIA YOUTH REFUNDING CRITERIA FOR PY 2006/2007. Cotrell Ward presented the item. The YPC approved the criteria at their meeting on October 17, 2005.

For point of clarification, there is an appeal process if there is a recommendation to defund a program that would first go through the YPC, then to the WIB. D. Johnson stated that in looking at the halfway point, it seems to be very artificial, because it suggests that someone must spend 50% of their funds halfway through the program year, does not seem common sense (bureaucratic).

D. Chen responded that the reason why we have it in place, is because she came to the WIB three years ago, and this WIB was #49 in terms of expenditures out of 50 WIBs in California. The State is always looking at recapturing money from a practical point of view. If they don't recapture the money and spend down the money, California then loses the money to 49 other states. Then, what happens, if we are #49 out of 50, we are at the bottom, and they have warned us that if we continue this, we are going to take money away from you. Therefore, she told the one-stops/providers they need to spend the money down now. We are now one of the top ten in terms of expenditures with the State. We have turned that around. She agrees that it is very bureaucratic, but this is the reality of the State funding cycle. We have to spend down the money by a certain time. She referred to the situation with the Veterans Program that was mentioned earlier this morning. The State is really looking at this very seriously, and the State is looking for money desperately because of Hurricane Katrina. The DOL has already stated that any money not spent by a certain time must be forwarded to Hurricane Katrina and other areas that are experiencing some real downturn.

Cotrell Ward stated that problematically, we would not want our service providers to spend down 80% of their funding for a year in three months, because it then jeopardizes also the rest of the program year.

D. Johnson stated that we have good managers at the one-stop career centers/programs and if they are experiencing problems in managing their budgets, because they have been around for a while, it seems to him that if there is some issue related to the WIB having to spend the money, and that a particular program provider is looking at some issue related to that, that they come back to the WIB staff level and work on something that made sense, rather than a very rigid number. It seems to him that there is some more active interchange that could take place to adjust budgets, even reallocate monies as we need to, so that other programs could use it better, rather than simply spending the dollars because it will otherwise be recaptured.

Patti Castro outlined the details of where we were a few years ago with our expenditure as a local area in relation to the State (Recapture and Redistribution Policy). The numbers/percentages that have come up are what the one-stop career centers came up with themselves (not arbitrary). Contracts can be amended, and they have flexibility within line items to do things at their own discretion. We haven't really had to defund anybody, and most of these things get worked out before the recommendations go to the YPC anyway. If there are serious issues, then we have to renegotiate things and becomes a contract issue, that they can't meet their obligations/target, or some other organizational issue. We usually know about it in enough time (within a six month window). If it's a policy issue of something that impacts the bigger picture, it always goes back to Committee. Staff is confident that this is workable, and this is a public hearing, if any of the providers wanted to comment on the criteria.

Chairperson Baker opened the public hearing.

Brenda Johnson of College of Alameda and recipient of these funds, stated that, with a word of caution, their fiscal year and the WIB program year don't necessarily agree, so that they are not able to spend money at a rate that sometimes seems reasonable. WIB staff works very closely with their program and they have been very successful in working through any fiscal or contractual issues they have come across. .

Chairperson Baker closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the WIA Youth Refunding Criteria associated with the youth program service operators for PY 2006/07 as outlined in Attachment V.C.1. was made by **Gardner/Giggleman/carried (Cota recused, Hodge abstained)**.

Luke Sims acknowledged our WIB staff and the Eden Area One-Stop Career Center staff for their help in a two-city (San Leandro and Oakland) successful job fair on November 15, 2005 that was held at the Oakland Coliseum. It was a great collaboration involving the two WIBs.

ITEM V.D. – SYSTEM SUPPORT FUNDING FOR PY 2005/06. Cotrell Ward presented the item. Certain strategies were approved by the YPC at their October 17, 2005 meeting. A detailed breakdown of the funding was outlined.

Chairperson Baker opened the public hearing, and with no input, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the YPC's recommendation for set aside and utilization of System Support funding for youth programs listed on Attachment V.D.1. was made by **Kidwell/Giggleman/carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM.