

Innovative Workforce Solutions

PINAL COUNTY LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Pinal County Housing Department
970 N. Eleven Mile Corner Road
Casa Grande, AZ
February 3, 2016

MINUTES

Call to Order – 9:10 AM

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call and Introductions

A quorum was declared

In attendance: Adeline Allen, Carol Daniel, Linda Garrett, Liz Harris-Tuck, Joan Moore, Kim Rodriguez, Lynn Parsons, Richard Wilkie, Bob Duke, Kristin Jepson, Tim Durkee, Susan Aguilar, Jack Beveridge, and Lana Chanda

Via Teleconference: Curtis Brown, Charlie Estrada, and Sandie Smith

Absent: Udo Cook, Mila Besich-Lira, Yvonne Jenkins, Chris Bannon, Ken Hall, Brad McCormick, and Tim Kanavel

Guests/Staff: John Vlaming (City of Eloy); Joel Millman (Pinal County); Aaron Moon (Pinal County); Sean Harper (Pinal County); Linda Martinez (DES); Cara Bryant (CAC); Lee French (CAG); Tammy Leonard-Wimmer (CAG)

III. Information/Discussion/Plans for Strategic Planning Session

Once Udo returns there will be a formalization to hold a strategic planning meeting which will be separate from the board meeting. Adeline suggested getting a list of dates to maximize Board member attendance for such meeting and hiring a facilitator. Evelyn Casuga was suggested by Bob Duke, and seconded by Richard Wilkie. Sandy suggested Cathy Parker who facilitates their board along with 2-4 others; Carol Daniels suggested we reach out to these individuals for their processes and what they would need from us. Richard Wilkie suggested the use of a scheduler like “Doodle”, or “When is Good” to better accommodate everyone to schedule the Strategic Planning Meeting.

IV. Information/Discussion/Update

(Adeline Allen)- Consultant Gabe Loyola’s work should be done in March. He has brought Pinal County through the entire transition with the help of Maxine Brown who is

still helping us. Next steps will be putting together the RFP for the Youth Program. Pinal County secured the lease for the Florence St. property, tenant improvements are going progressing. Pinal County will be submitting a 90-day notice to CAC that we are surrendering the property once the Board of Supervisors approve. The letter will be sent to Chris Wodka. Move-in date is anticipated for late February or early March. Aaron Moon reported that A&M Business Services were brought in (the original sellers of the furniture), to map and measure all of the current furniture and then measuring was done of the new building.

Adeline Allen stated that there is now a State Workforce Council, and they have already had their first meeting and she will be sending out the minutes to the Board for comment and asked if everyone could send comments to her and she would send them in one email on behalf of the Board.

There will be a Labor Market Analysis that the County will be participating in. It is a work in progress as of right now. A previous study has shown that 62% of our local workforce is leaving the county to work. Tim Kanavel will be leading the effort for the County to engage a vendor to conduct the study, Adeline Allen asked if the Board would please submit any questions they want to know for this analysis to her and she will pass them along.

V. Information/Discussion- Pinal County Business and Career Center Relocation

Aaron Moon reported that the relocation should take place between the beginning and end of March. Currently at the new site, which is located at 318 N. Florence St., the Resource Room is being built-out to match what we have in the current center. The new State branding effort is set to launch on February 17th at 10:00am. On that day we are holding a Job Fair which we conduct the Pinal County launch, as well as in Sacaton, and at our current location we will be having a soft launch; changing out signage, since we anticipate still being there when this all happens. Our branding will be changing from Arizona Workforce Connection to Arizona@Work/Pinal County. This is a statewide effort to align the regions under one identifying entity. The partner facilities will have signage made that says “A proud partner of Arizona@Work/Pinal County”. We are currently working with N-D Designs on our rebranding efforts for the new location when we will have our big launch of Arizona@Work/Pinal County. The Access Points will have new signage as well. Aaron also stated that we are currently working on streamlining internal processes and improving warm handoffs between partners. Joel Millman clarified the unity of the rebranding, and stated, DES is the state grantee for federal funds coming in, and the Arizona Commerce Authority staffs the Workforce Arizona Council which is the States’ Workforce Board.

Kim Rodriguez added that the materials given by Six Degrees are professional and consistent to give out to the public and employers. A question was raised inquiring if the address on our website is going to be changed to the correct one? Adeline Allen stated

that the current website is not working out due to some issues, and Aaron Moon stated that Six Degrees will also be providing us a new website that will be going live the day of the launch as well.

Clarification was sought regarding if we were still going to be called the “One-Stop”. Aaron clarified that no, we will be known as the Business and Career Center but some of the other local areas did fight to keep the One-Stop name.

Discussion took place regarding the Access Points at the libraries and training for volunteer staff. There was a suggestion that there be step by step directions for logging on to the computer and if there could be signs placed in the libraries directing individuals to the computers for the Workforce Connection. Richard Wilkie suggested that there be some sort of training video along with a how to list for access point volunteers, and there was a suggestion for on-site training to keep everyone up to date on current changes. Aaron stated that he wants to start tracking flow at the access points.

Discussion followed pertaining to a tracking kiosk to collect desired data at each of the locations.

VI. Information/Discussion Report on Pinal County Job Fair

Linda Martinez reported that so far 62 employers have confirmed to be participating in the job fair. Some top employers are U.S. Customs, AK-CHIN Indian Community, Abbott, and Sun Life. She also said she has been going through some of the open positions and noted that there is something out there for everyone. The Job Fair will be held at the Promenade Mall in Suite 130. She said she has contacted newspapers, and talked with Hey Maricopa TV and they have put it on their site as well. Linda stated that we are at this point trying to get as much exposure as possible to have a great turn out and the board members were welcome to share the flyer anywhere they could.

VII. Information/Discussion Pinal County Healthcare Sector Partnership

Jack stated that Karsten Nash is the new Program Coordinator at the Greater Valley Area Health Education Center; he has already jumped in to get things going. He recently had a meeting and Sun Life was there, where they were informed that the Arizona Commerce Authority at this time does not have the money to help as before. He also stated that they are on track to train and place jobseekers that employers are looking for.

VIII. Information/Discussion Economic Development

Richard Wilkie reported that Casa Grande is the direct benefit of a race track type project; it will be 2,300 acres, which is going to put a huge spotlight on Pinal County. Applegate Installation is a company that has taken over the old roof tile manufacturing company west of Casa Grande which will benefit the whole area. Hexel just celebrated their 50th Anniversary, and they still continue to grow. Someone asked about Phoenix

Mart. Richard Wilkie said he spoke with someone from Phoenix Mart, and it's still there and progressing.

John Vlaming stated that Goodyear has a semi-truck oil changing company on the North side of Circle K on Sunshine. They have a new C.O.O. and have Love's making the same kind of investment. In downtown Robson Ranch, a second hand gently used clothing and used goods store opened on Main, which has already had its soft opening the hard opening will be held on Friday. There is also new entry signage in the community which will be followed with new lighting. On another note, there are regional transportation authority investments, which are a big issue to be voted on this November, which will be taxable and will be across the county and used to fund transportation which is a major catalyst for economic development.

Joel Millman and Aaron Moon reported on Workforce Development efforts. Joel Millman mentioned he had the opportunity to attend the Arizona Basic Economic Development and ended up expanding our network with 67 attendees at the training, 3 being from Pinal County. Pinal County has a local plan that the Board is responsible for and obligated to have in place to outline the direction the workforce direction in which the County is headed. Through WIOA there is renewed emphasis on employers, and we must ensure that employment is there and get individuals into the in-demand occupations.

Joel Millman also stated that the County is in the process of developing a new local plan. The current plan has been revised and will be submitted by Monday. Pinal County will then have the current plan in place and set its efforts on developing a new plan based on the strategic planning session. The order of events on the plan submission process is as follows: the State is currently working on the State Plan which is due to the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services by April 1st. A while after, the state will issue planning guidance to local workforce development areas. There are no set deadlines, but in regulations, there is a section outlining the local plan contents so we will know what to respond to. These plans are set for 4 years. Richard Wilkie said that they are helping to develop and inspire the younger workforce. Kim Rodriguez mentioned that as a region, all the high schools feed into CAVIT, and asked how we guide those to support the economic development that is coming into Pinal County. Joel Millman stated that there is a Youth Program that not only focuses on in-school youth but out-of-school youth as well, so we could start in the junior high schools not just high schools.

Discussion followed about how to reach out and expose the youth to these programs.

Joel Millman reported that a grant was submitted on behalf of the Board to, the Chicago Cook Workforce Board that is based on the retail market. The grant package is based on three tracks a) the basics of retail; soft skills, b) apprenticeships, and c) management courses. We should know about the grant in March and it will be in effect in April. Joel

Millman mentioned the National Career Readiness Certification that was included in the grant application and that Bob Duke provided a summary of the certificate program. Tim Durkee asked if there was a transferable skills analysis, like coming from Vocational Rehabilitation. Bob Duke said he didn't think so but that is what the O*NET Assessments were there for.

Joel Millman talked about performance measures, we are currently in Program Year (PY) 15, and are still under the performance measures that were under the Workforce Investment Act. On July 1st, the core programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will be held accountable for the same performance measures. If there is anything that the Board wants to know they should send an email to Aaron so he can start putting something together. Around April or May, the Department of Labor will give the state their goals, then the state will negotiate with the local workforce areas on PY16 performance targets.

Kim Rodriguez reported that the Business Service Team has been reinstated and they have been meeting every month, and have representation across Pinal County. Team members talk to employers, go to the chambers to make sure everyone is aware of Arizona Workforce Connection and what we do. Tammy Wimmer and Tim Tucker are leads for the team.

Kim Rodriguez introduced Lana Chanda, Director of the Gila River Indian Community, which serves as the 19 Tribal Nations' WIOA Comprehensive Center.

Adeline Allen brought up the schedule for future Board meetings and stated that Chairman Udo Cook would like to schedule every other month for the remainder of the year. There was an agreement that Wednesdays were too tough for everyone's schedules. Tabled dates for next meeting.

IX. Call to the Public

Kim Rodriguez mentioned that the Eagle One finally got serviced and they have begun setting up dates to get people familiar with the unit. There is a benefits counselor on the unit when it goes out. There will be a Veteran's Navigator on Saturday from 9am to 1pm, so veterans will get familiar with that navigator. They will be purchasing laptops or tablets so they can remain connected wherever they may be. Jack Beveridge mentioned that it does help when they transfer their military duties into civilian duties to ease them into the workforce. Kim Rodriguez mentioned an open house on February 12th with the navigator. They have also presented with the Gila River Indian Community, to ensure the tribal areas are served as well. March 19th there will be a dedication to the Honor Wall in Coolidge.

Jack Beveridge touched on a new veteran's treatment court that was just established by the County Attorney's Office. The referral mechanism is set up to help people in jail or

divert them from going to jail in the first place. Thomas Winkle from the WAC mentioned to Jack Beveridge that they have a program for certifying veteran friendly employers.

Kim Rodriguez mentioned that the Stand Down is coming up in Florence in April.

Liz Tuck discussed the opening of the Zipline in Oracle, Az.

Susan Aguilar reported that Pearson (the company that purchased the GED testing), lowered the passing rate from 150 to 145, although the official announcement has not been made. CAC started a GED Math course, and if it is successful, they will expand it to the other campuses across Pinal County.

Jack Beveridge mentioned that he was part of a group designated to help with the selection of the new CAC President and he had to drop out because he will be out of town. They are looking for someone else who lives in the Gold Canyon/Apache Junction areas.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.