



## **MINUTES**

**June 18, 2025  
3:00 p.m.**

*Meeting was held in person and via teleconference at:*

*Workforce Assistance Center, 2037 W. Cleveland Avenue, Madera, CA 93637  
9300 Valley Children's Place, Madera, CA 93636nmartin  
40343 Highway 41, Oakhurst 93644  
2621 Cowden Avenue-Merced CA 95348  
1745 Lester Ave., Clovis 93619*

**PRESENT:** Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Jorge DeNava, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli  
**ABSENT:** Chuck Riojas, Debi Bray, Donald Foster, Marie Harris, Mike Lopez  
**GUEST:**  
**STAFF:** Ahmed Metwally, Bertha Vega, Jessica Roche, Maiknue Vang, Nicki Martin

### **1.0 Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chair Frazier.*

#### **1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2.0 Additions to the Agenda**

*None.*

### **3.0 Public Comment**

*None*

### **4.0 Introductions and Recognitions**

*None.*

### **5.0 Adoption of Board Agenda**

*Jorge DeNava moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Emilio Hipolito.*

*Vote: Approved – unanimous*

*Yes: Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Jorge DeNava, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli*

### **6.0 Consent Calendar**

**6.1 Consideration of approval of the April 17, 2025, Workforce Development Board (WDB) meeting minutes.**

**6.3 Consideration of approval of the reappointment of Michelle Brunetti, Valley Children's Hospital, for an additional 3-year term: 8/23/25 to 8/23/28.**

*Rob Poythress moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Emilio Hipolito.*

*Vote: Approved – unanimous*

*Yes: Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Jorge DeNava, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli*

**7.0 Action Items**

**7.1 Consideration of approval of Eric Niino's Director application to the WDB representing EVAPCO for a 3-year term.**

*Eric's nomination to the WDB was as a result of the restructuring of the WDB through the work of the Leadership subcommittee. 2 seats were identified for the WDB under the manufacturing and transportation and logistics sectors. EVAPCO was one of the businesses identified by the subcommittee. Eric is a lifelong member of the Madera community and is very well known. Staff feel he will be a great addition to the WDB.*

*Rob Poythress moved to approve, seconded by Laura Gutile.*

*Vote: Approved – unanimous*

*Yes: Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Jorge DeNava, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli*

**7.2 Consideration of approval of Marie Harris', Madera Community College, resignation from the WDB.**

*Ms. Harris has been reassigned and will be replaced on the WDB by Gurminder Sangha. Gurminder's WDB application will come before the WDB at their August Board meeting. He is very familiar with the workforce system.*

*Laura Gutile moved to approve, seconded by Jorge DeNava.*

*Vote: Approved – unanimous*

*Yes: Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Jorge DeNava, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli*

**7.3 Consideration of approval of the Memorandum of Understand (MOU) between La Cooperativa Campesina de California and the WDB to establish an agreement for the administration of DOL's National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP).**

*La Cooperativa is a recipient of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) Housing grant and must establish a partnership with the local workforce agencies as required by the Department of Labor.*

*Emilio Hipolito moved to approve, seconded by Laura Gutile.*

*Vote: Approved – unanimous*

*Yes: Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli*

*Abstain: Jorge DeNava*

**7.4 Discussion and consideration of the existing WDB attendance requirement to include guidance on date of implementation.**

*As discussed during the last Leadership Committee update, once work on the WDB restructuring was done and all the right leaders are seated at the (Board) table, the committee started work on the existing attendance guidelines as per the WDB Bylaws. Under section 6.07 of the WDB bylaws, Director's attend a minimum of 75% of scheduled*

meetings. This equates to 1 absence during the fiscal/program year before a Director runs the risk of possible termination from the Board. Staff want to discuss the current attendance guidance and request input from the Board. Before the pandemic, staff would provide an attendance sheet alongside the agenda packet. Staff will go back to tracking attendance and providing the information with the meeting packet. Discussion held as to how many absences Directors will be allowed, allowing excused absences and what non-excused absences might be. Instances of family emergencies, illness, business meetings/events that may conflict with the WDB meeting are examples of excused absences. Unexcused absences suggestions were no-call, no-shows, or no RSVP. It was suggested that Directors be allowed 2 unexcused absences. Staff would reach out to Directors to discuss their attendance if it becomes an issue before any action is taken. Staff and Directors discussed the importance of modeling professional behavior. Staff will take input and revise the section in the bylaws and bring the bylaws back to the Board for approval in August. The revised attendance guidelines will take effect beginning with the October meeting.

## **7.5 WDB Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

Brett Frazier is the current Board Chair and Omair Javaid was the Vice Chair. Omair resigned from the WDB as part of the Leadership committee restructuring work at the last meeting.

Kristina Gallagher nominated Brett Frazier for the WDB Chair, seconded by Laura Gutile.

Jorge DeNava nominated Nichole Mosqueda for WDB Vice Chair, seconded by Rob Poythress.

Nominations approved unanimously.

Yes: Yes: Brett Frazier, Emilio Hipolito, Joe Perez, Jorge DeNava, Kristina Gallagher, Lanie Suderman, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Nichole Mosqueda, Robert Poythress, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli

## **8.0 Information Items**

### **8.1 Success Stories**

Information provided within the agenda packet. Manuel is the first Secure Track youth to find employment in the State of California. He is currently making \$22 an hour.

### **8.2 WDB Action Planning Subcommittee Updates**

Information provided within the agenda packet.

- **Leadership Committee:** Jim Kopshever met with Maiknue and indicated that he would not be joining the WDB. During their meeting, Jim clarified that The Almond Company represented more of an Ag manufacturing sector rather than the transportation and logistics sector. Staff will reach out to Central Valley Concrete to see if there is anyone interested in joining the WDB. This could full-fill a vacancy in the transportation and logistics sector as well as representation from the Chowchilla area.
- **Training Committee:** the committee had previously indicated that they would be doing a survey to gather feedback on the transportation and medical industry. Questions have been developed and the committee is working on getting the survey out.
- **Work Ethics Committee:** the committee had a great meeting in April. Quite a few folks were able to participate in Madera Unified School District's (MUSD) Graduate Profile. Everyone had great experiences and walked away with a better understanding of the importance of soft skills. This helped the committee identify the different skills that are needed. The committee members identified 3 to 5 workforce priorities around work ethics. These priorities were brought before MUSD staff and Kristin McKenna in order to see if the priorities aligned well with the graduate profile work being done. The identified priorities fit well with past surveys given to community partners. The top 3 will come back to the committee and they will work with MUSD on how to measure the priorities/matrix for students. The committee is in the matrix stage and working on how to really measure. Next step will be to begin working with employers on who would be interested in piloting this with next year's graduates. Maiknue Vang, Executive Director, stated that staff have met with and worked with IMAGO which is a program that can provide an assessment on soft skills. She would be happy to make arrangements to provide a demo for IMAGO.
- **Policy Committee:** The next step is to do some outreach to some of the workforce area Chairs. A discussion with other area workforce board chairs was going to take place at a Central California Workforce Collaborative (CCWC) meeting but the meeting was rescheduled. They will be scheduling another committee soon to continue their work.
- **Marketing Committee:** the committee's work has been heavily dependent on the work currently being done by Archer and Hound. In the meantime, work is continuing on the mobile unit van. Starlink was purchased and will

*be installed in order to have wi-fi in the van. Local stakeholders, businesses, partners, and some WDB members should have received a link to participate in Archer and Hound's CORE survey. Archer and Hound is gathering the survey results and will be conducting a Discovery Workshop with staff to discuss survey results and future work to be done.*

### **8.3 Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation (MCWIC) Update**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

### **8.4 California Workforce Association (CWA) 2025 Workforce Champion Award**

*Information provided within the agenda packet. Madera Workforce nominated Nichole Mosqueda for the California Workforce Association (CWA) 2025 Workforce Champion Award. Nichole was selected as the Workforce Champion from among 45 other workforce boards and was recognized at the CWA WORKCON conference that took place in Costa Mesa in April. Nicole also sat on an employer panel at the conference. She stated that she was honored to receive the award.*

### **8.5 WIOA Formula and Special Projects Quarterly Program Overview as of March 31, 2025**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

### **8.6 Information on Madera Community Hospital**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

### **8.7 Information on Federal Legislative Update**

*Information provided within the agenda packet. Staff thanked WDB members for their letters of support. In May, a "skinny budget" was released that previewed what the budget may look like. At the end of May, the White House released details for the fiscal year 2026 budget proposal. In this budget, it proposed a 35% reduction in funding to the Department of Labor (DOL) – the workforce system is funded through the DOL. There is a proposal that would combine 11 workforce programs into a single block grant – the Make America Skills Again (MASA). MASA would essentially reduce funding by \$1.6 billion. This would give the States discretion to use this funding however they want. MASA has placed Job Corps under the chopping block, however, States have discretion to continue to fund Job Corps if that is their desire. Information on the 11 programs are provided in the agenda packet. At this time, it is very important to reach out to the federal government with business priorities and stories. Some employers/businesses have signed on the CWA's letter of support campaign. Job Corps is pushing back against their cuts. At this time, it is not believed that Congress is near making a final decision. There really isn't any concrete data/information to provide on funding. Preliminary allocation/budget information for program year 2025-26 has been provided to workforce areas, and it appears that Madera may receive a slight increase however, the notice of funding availability (NOFA) has not been received for signature. Once funding information is provided, staff will be creating budgets for different scenarios based on what it might look like should different programs be eliminated. Currently, 30% of allocations must be spent on training. It has been mentioned that there is a possibility that training percentages may go up to as high as 50%, which would cause the workforce services and system to look very different than what it looks like currently. It was discussed that many elected officials still do not see or know about the value the workforce system provides and that the Program Impact reports show the value of local workers and the return on investment (ROI) that the workforce system provides.*

### **8.8 Update on WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Career Services Provider Application**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

### **8.9 Weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims for Madera County**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

### **8.10 WDB 2025-2026 Meeting Calendar**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

## **9.0 Written Communication**

### **9.1 Workforce Innovational and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 188 Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions Annual Compliance Monitoring Review Final Report Program Year 2023-25**

*Information provided within the agenda packet.*

## **10.0 Open Discussion/Reports/Information**

### **10.1 Board Members**

*None.*

### **10.2 Staff**

*None.*

## **11.0 Next Meeting**

*The WDB will meet on August 21, 2025, at the Workforce Assistance Center.*

## **12.0 Adjournment**

*Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.*