



MINUTES

**April 16, 2026
3:00 p.m.**

Meeting will be held in person and via Zoom at:

Workforce Assistance Center, 2037 W. Cleveland Avenue, Madera, CA 93637

PRESENT: Brett Frazier, Chuck Riojas, Eric Niino, Jorge DeNava, Lanie Suderman, Michelle Jones, Mike Lopez, Nichole Mosqueda, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli
ABSENT: Aaron Chambers, Donald Foster, Emilio Hipolito, Gurminder Sangha, Kristina Gallagher, Laura Gutile, Michelle Brunetti, Robert Poythress,
GUEST:
STAFF: Bertha Vega, Maiknue Vang, Nicki Martin, Sheyla Garcia

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Brett 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

Nichole Mosqueda moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Laura Gutile.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Brett Frazier, Chuck Riojas, Eric Niino, Jorge DeNava, Lanie Suderman, Michelle Jones, Mike Lopez, Nichole Mosqueda, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli

6.0 Consent Calendar

- 6.1 Consideration of approval of the February 19, 2026, Workforce Development Board (WDB) meeting minutes.**
- 6.2 Consideration of approval of the reappointment of Jorge DeNava, Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC), for an additional 3-year term.**
- 6.3 Consideration of approval of the reappointment of Brett Frazier, Papa Murphy's, for an additional 3-year term.**

- 6.4 Consideration of approval of the reappointment of Wendy Lomeli, Employment Development Department (EDD), for an additional 3-year term.**
- 6.5 Consideration of approval of the non-reappointment of Donald Foster, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, to the WDB.**

Laura Gutile moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Chuck Riojas.

Brett Frazier, Chuck Riojas, Eric Niino, Jorge DeNava, Lanie Suderman, Michelle Jones, Mike Lopez, Nichole Mosqueda, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli

7.0 Action Items

- 7.1 Consideration of approval of Priscilla Varela's Director application to the WDB representing the Department of Rehabilitation for a 3-year term.**

Priscilla Varela is replacing Joe Perez on the WDB after his retirement.

Chuck Riojas moved to approve, seconded by Laura Gutile.

Laura Gutile moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Chuck Riojas.

Brett Frazier, Chuck Riojas, Eric Niino, Jorge DeNava, Lanie Suderman, Michelle Jones, Mike Lopez, Nichole Mosqueda, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli

- 7.2 Consideration of approval of the One Stop Operator (OSO) quarterly report for the period of January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.**

Staff presented the OSO report. Andrew Munoz, OSO, has been very helpful. Partners meet monthly. Andrew has created an online dashboard platform to share flyers, resources and other information. Everything is going well and Partners seem more engaged. Andrew used to be a Workforce director.

Todd Lile moved to approve, seconded by Nichole Mosqueda.

Laura Gutile moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Chuck Riojas.

Brett Frazier, Chuck Riojas, Eric Niino, Jorge DeNava, Lanie Suderman, Michelle Jones, Mike Lopez, Nichole Mosqueda, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli

- 7.3 Consideration of approval of the transfer of funds from the Dislocated Worker funding stream to the Adult funding stream in order to maximize customer service and provide more flexibility in the areas of greatest needs as allowed by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 113(b)(4) and as outlined in EDD Directive WSD22-09:**

- **EDD Subgrant AA511014 YOA 2024 Transfer of Fund request 02 in the amount of \$120,000**

Once funds are transferred, they cannot be transferred back. The transfer still leaves a healthy dislocated worker budget and even though there have been a number of business closures in Madera County, staff are not concerned about insufficient funds to support impacted employees as dislocated workers may also access Adult funds. Some dislocated workers from the recent closures have come in but not the majority. Some laid off employees were picked up by other manufacturing businesses. EVAPCO hired approximately 50 new employees including several of these impacted workers.

Nichole Mosqueda moved to approve, seconded by Todd Lile.

Laura Gutile moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Chuck Riojas.

Brett Frazier, Chuck Riojas, Eric Niino, Jorge DeNava, Lanie Suderman, Michelle Jones, Mike Lopez, Nichole Mosqueda, Todd Lile, Wendy Lomeli

8.0 Information Items

- 8.1 Success Stories**

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.2 WDB Action Planning Subcommittee Updates

- **Leadership:** Quarter 7 just wrapped up. The Leadership Committee's tasks are mostly completed. The committee is waiting for the external launch of the new marketing and branding so that a PowerPoint presentation can be created and provided to Board members with information on their roles on the Board. The full, external launch will take place in the summer when Archer & Hound finalizes the website redesign. Nichole Mosqueda joined Maiknue Vang, Executive Director, at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in March. There was a lot of information on AI and AI integration on training programs. The majority of the workshops had some component of AI for both Youth and Adult. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor, Henry Mack, spoke about WIOA funding and placed pressure on the States and Counties around the low numbers that are being reported to the Federal government and their impact. Many Workforce areas were unhappy after his presentation, but this pointed out that there may be inconsistencies on how and what the States are reporting and that States need to do a better job reporting and representing their impact to their State and local Workforce areas. Nichole felt that this conference is very good for Board members and it showed that Madera is on track and that AI integration is at the top of the list. Maiknue, stated that Madera has always been hesitant to use AI but the conference helped her see it differently. AI policies may need to be created and trainings scheduled because staff are most likely already using it. AI could also be taught to participants for use as a tool with things like resumes, etc. An EDD Veteran program staff uses AI to help Veterans prepare for public speaking. This is done by speaking or inputting what the Veteran wants to say into AI and then AI generating a more concise and professional way of saying what they want to say.
- **Training:** Laura Gutile was welcomed to the Training Committee. The Committee is still struggling with member attendance. They discussed the current Sector Partnership meetings that have been taking place. The sectors include transportation, manufacturing, and green energy. There are still some industries missing at the table. The committee is discussing how to bring those missing industries to the table. Discussion held on how to engage the missing industries and possibly scheduling events that are sector specific to bring those industries together. This would also help provide information on their industries to the community and could help recruit youth to those industries. The committee has reached out to Madera Community College to re-engage efforts to develop an Or surgical tech program. There is a demand for this field but the College must first buy in to the need. Trucking and Medical Assisting are also in demand. Staff learned that Merced College is working towards getting on to the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) for Registered Dental Assistant.
- **Marketing:** Staff are getting ready for the official launch of the new website. There will be a ribbon cutting for the van on 5/20/26 at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Workforce Assistance Center. The van will be parked at the Juvenile Probation enclosed parking lot when not in use.

8.3 Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation (MCWIC) Update

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.4 Federal and Legislative Updates

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.5 National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) 2026 Conference

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.6 California Workforce Association (CWA) WORKCON 2026 Conference

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.7 Information on James Irvine Foundation Better Careers Retreat

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.8 Update on Mountain Community and Madera County Job Fairs

Information provided within the agenda packet.

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

Information provided within the agenda packet.

9.0 Written Communication

None.

10.0 Open Discussion/Reports/Information

10.1 Board Members

None.

10.2 Staff

None.

11.0 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held at the Workforce Assistance Center on June 18, 2026.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. due to loss of quorum during agenda item 8.2.