



MADERA COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

MINUTES

March 24, 2022

**Convened at Madera County Workforce Assistance Center
2037 W. Cleveland Avenue, Madera, CA 93637**

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81999204075?pwd=TDh2T0t0Sml3SEU1K2NJcFhFaEtndz09;>
Meeting ID: 819 9920 4075; Password: 819 9920 4075; Phone: (669) 900-9128

PRESENT: Debi Bray, Ramona Davie, Mike Farmer, Roger Leach, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Tim Riche, Robyn Smith

ABSENT:

GUEST:

STAFF: Maiknue Vang, Nicki Martin, Tracie Scott-Contreras

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Debi Bray.

2.0 Additions to the Agenda

None.

3.0 Public Comment

None.

4.0 Introductions and Recognitions

Tim Riche stated that Debi Bray was honored as District 1's Woman of the year.

5.0 Adoption of Board Agenda

Mattie Mendez moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Robyn Smith.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Debi Bray, Ramona Davie, Mike Farmer, Roger Leach, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Tim Riche, Robyn Smith

6.0 Consent Calendar

6.1 Consideration to reaffirm Resolution 2021-01 authorizing remote teleconferencing for the period of April 3, 2022 through May 2, 2022 in accordance with Assembly Bill 361.

6.2 Consideration of approval of the February 24, 2022 Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation (MCWIC) meeting minutes.

Mike Farmer moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Tim Riche.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Debi Bray, Ramona Davie, Mike Farmer, Roger Leach, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Tim Riche, Robyn Smith

7.0 Action Items

7.1 Consideration of approval of the MCWIC year-to-date financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2021.

Trainings are increasing. Some special projects are ending but new projects will be starting. Staff are waiting to hear from the State on the status of the 80% expenditure exemption and whether it will be allowed. Staff anticipate requesting another Dislocated Worker (DW) to Adult fund transfer in April. There are not many DW traffic coming to the Center.

Gabriel Mejia moved to approve, seconded by Robyn Smith.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Debi Bray, Ramona Davie, Mike Farmer, Roger Leach, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Tim Riche, Robyn Smith

7.2 Consideration of approval of the Corrections Workforce Specialist job description.

7.3 Consideration of approval of the revised non-exempt salary schedule.

Agenda item 7.2 and 7.3 were discussed together. Staff have received the contract from CDCR which will fund a staff member to work at the Valley State Prison's (VSP) with the Transitions program which works with the population that is getting ready to parole from the institution. The Corrections Workforce Specialist will need security clearance and will provide resources and training information at the site. The 5-year contract will fund staff and the mini America's Job Center of California (AJCC) within the facility. The Workforce Specialist will work at VSP from 7:30 to 4:00 and will come to the Madera office on Fridays. Inmates released from VSP are released to the area from which they were sentenced. Staff will coordinate with the VSP Transition program to connect them to services and resources in the area they will be released to. The Workforce Specialist will have access to email and will continue to be a part of MCWIC communications. The position is starting a bit higher due to the population they will be serving.

Roger Leach moved to approved items 7.2 and 7.3, seconded by Gabriel Mejia.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Debi Bray, Ramona Davie, Mike Farmer, Roger Leach, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Tim Riche, Robyn Smith

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Madera County Update

Information provided within the agenda packet. The WDB last met on February 17, 2022. Their next meeting is on April 21, 2022.

8.2 Program Update

The \$10,000 Wells Fargo grant award is used to pay for IMAGO which provides online resources for soft skills. It can also be used to purchase equipment. Madera Workforce along with Kings County will work with the Fresno Workforce Board on their Equity and Special Population grant. This grant will be assisting English language learners, immigrants and re-entry individuals obtain employment in solar, construction, and forestry sectors. Madera will receive \$65,000 to serve 10 participants. Workforce signed the juvenile Re-alignment proposal that will allot approximately \$71,000 for younger and older youth transition services. The tentative start date is April 4, 2022. Possible worksites have been identified through the Stewards of the Sierra. Signs and coverts along the highway in affected areas need to be replaced and worked on. Staff is working on forms and will submit to the State for approval. Staff are working on outreach to the community and have launched a text messaging platform and are working on an Instagram account. Staff have also been creating custom YouTube videos and marketing the HR Hotline to Madera County employers. Staff are working on a regional equity project to create stronger connections to the community colleges with a focus on industrial programs including welding. The Grant submittal deadline is May 6, 2022.

8.3 Information on Weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims for Madera County

The UI numbers are trending downward. The numbers have been pretty steady – no big jumps. Staff are not seeing many dislocated workers (DW) compared to adult participants. There are approximately 4 times as many adult participants than DW. DW are participants who were terminated or laid off from their jobs.

9.0 Written Communication

None.

10.0 Open Discussion/Reports/Information

10.1 Board Members

- *Robyn Smith stated that she will be moving out of state and will be resigning from the MCWIC effective in April.*
- *Mattie Mendez stated that free tax services are still being provided through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) through the Community Action Partnership of Madera County for those who file less than \$73,000 in income. Those interested can call 211 to make an appointment. The Board of Supervisors approved funding for housing assistance.*
- *Gabriel Mejia stated that Camarena Health has been very busy and is starting to see non-COVID patients.*
- *Ramona Davie stated that Union Bank was bought out by US Bank. The purchase will be official by the end of the year.*
- *Mike Farmer stated that Madera Unified has started to allow in-person participation for the Parent Project.*
- *Debi Bray stated that there will be a ribbon cutting for the new fire station on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The Boot Barn's ribbon cutting is scheduled for April 1, 2022. Micro business loans are available for employers.*
- *Roger Leach stated that the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will take place on May 5, 2022 at 6:50 a.m. Pastor Rick Countrymen will be speaking at the breakfast and that a portion of the Twin Towers memorial will be on display. Tickets can be purchased through the Madera Chamber of Commerce.*

10.2 Staff

None.

11.0 Next Meeting

April 28, 2022

12.0 Adjournment

Roger Leach moved to adjourn at 3:50 p.m., seconded by Mattie Mendez.