

FOOTHILL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (FWDB) MEETING

Virtual Zoom Meeting

MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2022 FWDB MEETING

(These minutes were approved at the May 11, 2022 meeting of the Foothill Workforce Development Board meeting.)

INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

The Foothill Workforce Development Board Chair, Dan Lien, welcomed the board members, staff members and guests and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. He then called for the roll call of members and introduction of guests.

Present - FWDB

Dan J. Lien, Chair, DJL Professional Services
Tom Selinske, Vice Chair, FocusOut, LLC
Denise Allevato, CA Employment Development Department
Shomari Davis, IBEW Local 11
Hector Delgado, Teamsters Local Union No. 396
Elia Evans, UEI College
Flint Fertig, Monrovia Unified School District
Robert Helbing, Air Tro, Inc.
Gene Hurd, UAW Local 509
Helen Romero-Shaw, Southern California Gas Company
Tashera Taylor, Foothill Unity Center, Inc.
Brenda Trainor, Frontier Trail, Inc.
Laurie Wheeler, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

Absent - FWDB

Keshia Bowen, Simply Divine
Salvatrice Cummo, Pasadena City College
Tony de Trinidad, Painters & Allied Trades DC 36
John Frala, Rio Hondo College
Steven Gutierrez, Rager's Abbey Flooring & Window Covering
Victor LaGroon, City of Hope (Excused)
Denise McKnight, Department of Rehabilitation
Sandra Mejia, M & R Professional Services
Michael Wangler, Citrus College

It was noted by Flint Fertig that Michael Wrangler, Dean of Career/Technical & Continuing Education at Citrus College, had taken another position and was no longer with Citrus College. Dianne Russell-Carter noted the necessity for a letter of resignation for the record. Mr. Fertig stated he would contact Mr. Wrangler and ask him to send a resignation letter.

FWDB staff member, David Eder, stated a quorum of the Foothill Workforce Development Board was established.

Staff Present

Dianne Russell-Carter, FWDB Executive Director, Ricardo Quezada, Alma Rosa Estevez, Alex Joya, Sarah Mendoza and David Eder

Guests Present

David Baquerizo, ProPath Inc., One-Stop operator
Anthony Crouch, CA Employment Development Department
Renata Dukes, City of Pasadena
John Chamberlin
David Shinder

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 8, 2021, FWDB meeting were approved with corrections.

Motion: Flint Fertig Seconded: Brenda Taylor

Brenda Taylor requested corrections to the minutes: page 2, the organization Shepherd's Door was misspelled, reference regarding Michael Wangler was missing "no" within the sentence; and, page 3, second paragraph, "clients are coming in to assist," should be, "clients are coming in to get assistance." Dianne Russell-Carter asked David Eder if that sentence regarding clients was in reference or in context to youth workers. David Eder stated he believed it was. Helen Romero Shaw noted that her employer should be listed as "Southern California Gas Company." David Eder stated he would correct the minutes as noted.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Unanimous; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Dan Lien noted this was a special meeting with only one action item. He apologized for not being able to attend the December 8, 2021, meeting. He thanked the FWDB Board for striving to have the best transparency, full-disclosure and clarity to operate efficiently and with a full understanding of what is being presented to the Board. He stated this item is a staff recommendation, within the understanding of regulations and understanding that a "member's choice is a member's choice." While the Board has concerns about serving the constituents, the employers, employees, and various community organizations, it is not our role to block (Monrovia) to make their own decision (to depart the FWDB service area and the

Joint Powers Agreement). He stated that we wish nothing but the best for Monrovia and that we will explain why the motion has been recommended by staff and what this will mean to all parties concerned. He stated the modification decision is within the purview of the Governor's Office and that we will hear a presentation from our staff and from our special guest.

PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEM

Executive Director, Dianne Rusell Carter, stated that she would illustrate the potential impacts of the modification of Monrovia leaving the FWDB. Sharing a presentation to the Board and the audience via the Zoom screen, she stated that Monrovia has 37,981 residents with an unemployment rate of 5.9%, compared to the FWDB's overall average unemployment rate of 6.3%.

Dianne Russell Carter stated that from 2019 through 2021, 1,697 Monrovia residents were served basic services through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) at FWDB's comprehensive America's Job Center of California (AJCC). She noted that FWDB's AJCC is a comprehensive center with various mandatory partners. She stated WIOA always emphasizes customer choice: jobseekers (Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth) may choose any AJCC for services and may continue to use FWDB's AJCC after any modification of the service area. It is possible that training funding could be restricted to actual residents of the FWDB service area if the budget becomes constrained. If Monrovia leaves the FWDB, Monrovia residents may choose to seek services at three Los Angeles County WDB funded sites: Alhambra AJCC, Pomona Valley Comprehensive AJCC, and the West Covina Affiliate AJCC. The closest of these is Alhambra.

Regarding the impact on Monrovia business customers if Monrovia moves to the Los Angeles County WDB, Dianne Russell Carter stated Monrovia businesses and employers will continue to use the CalJobs system as it currently does under the FWDB. FWDB may still assist Monrovia businesses to place candidates, provide customized and on-the-job training if the budget is available, though the business will be referred to its own local WDB first. Like the jobseeker customers, Monrovia businesses may use any of the three closest Los Angeles County WDB AJCCs. Rapid Response services to Monrovia businesses planning layoffs will be coordinated by Los Angeles County WDB and its AJCCs. David Eder also noted that under Los Angeles County WDB, there are 19 AJCCs (Comprehensive, Affiliate) and that Monrovia would be among the 55 cities and unincorporated areas serving 4 million residents served by that WDB. Chair Dan Lien noted that one of the changes would be that FWDB may not be able to proactively recruit and serve Monrovia businesses as the priority would be the five remaining cities of the FWDB service area. He stated it will remain an open-door policy that we will serve who we can.

Dianne Russell Carter stated that if Monrovia departs, FWDB will need to restructure its membership to focus on the businesses and employers of the remaining five cities. The federal and state requirements of the Board will not change, still requiring a private sector majority and Labor representation. The MOUs with partners may need to be modified. Additionally,

the Monrovia Community Adult School (MCAS) would no longer be the primary Adult Education partner, though FWDB would still be using the school for training via the I-Train. Flint Fertig noted that MCAS's footprint extends into Arcadia and Duarte and will continue to serve those residents. Elia Evans asked if individuals could choose MCAS as training entity and Dianne Russell Carter agreed, as the system operates under customer choice. John Chamberlin noted that the five remaining cities within the Policy Board would be responsible for determining which Adult Education entity they would elect to use as the mandatory partner and they could certainly elect to appoint MCAS to serve this role, though they would have other options if Monrovia departed the FWDB. Flint Fertig noted that Pasadena Unified serves as the other Adult Education provider within the service area. Tom Selinske stated the impacts discussed helped Board members understand the potential impacts

Tashera Taylor asked how many representatives would no longer be on the Board if Monrovia departed. Dianne Russell Carter stated that according to population, Monrovia makes up 12% of the FWDB service area. John Chamberlin stated that under the Joint Powers Agreement, the Policy Board appoints all members of the FWDB. Traditionally, those members have businesses that have a strong footprint within the service area. He said it would be allowable for the Policy Board to have businesses remain – those that are not primarily within the five remaining cities of the FWDB - but that would be unusual. It would be up to the Policy Board to decide whom to appoint to the FWDB. Chair Dan Lien stated that while the FWDB does not appoint board membership, it does review, ratify and then present individual board member applications to the Policy Board for its action. He stated that the FWDB may well then want to strategize who it wants to remain on the Board and recommendations of replacements for possible exits. Dianne Russell Carter described the process and stated that until the recommendation of the member application is accepted by the Policy Board, the applicant has no standing. Brenda Trainor stated that when she first joined the FWDB, it was a self-sustaining board. The Board itself had a nominating committee and process and the members voted on the membership, following the mandatory federal and state designated categories. After the federal law changed, the authority for the formal appointments shifted to the Joint Powers Authority. Not all WDBs have a Joint Powers Authority, but we do. What was before an internal authority, was shifted to the local elected officials (the Policy Board) and they are kind enough to accept our recommendations, but it is still their authority to make the appointments.

John Chamberlin stated that it is a statutory requirement of the law that the business representatives do business in the local area. What “doing business in the local area” means, will be up to the five remaining elected officials.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. That the Foothill Workforce Development Board will take no position at this time whether the City of Monrovia should leave the Joint Powers Agreement of the Foothill Employment Training Consortium and instead join the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board Workforce Development Board.

Chair Dan Lien if the WDB would like to entertain the motion. Flint Fertig made the motion. Tom Selinske seconded the motion.

Chair Dan Lien asked if there was discussion regarding the action item. Brenda Trainor stated that the Board did not discuss the additional attachments, the public comments regarding the modification. She stated she was a little confused about some of the items that was within the material. Chair Dan Lien stated the materials were an informational packet and had no bearing on the motion. He stated that the materials preceded the motion, and the points were mute at this time. Tashera Taylor asked if the FWDB showed progress in the three areas cited by Monrovia (in the modification request) over a period of time, could this be revisited and brought back to the County WDB to show that the FWDB would like to have (Monrovia) back within our jurisdiction. Chair Dan Lien said that this was a good question but that he and others had presented to the Monrovia City Council and had spent time on this. The decision has been made and has moved forward; who are we to block it? Chair Dan Lien stated that yes, they would always be welcomed back to the FWDB, but that we cannot stop the current decision. Tashera Taylor understood we cannot stop the decision but that a few years down the line, we could show we've been effective with the Monrovia residents.

Dianne Russell-Carter asked Anthony Crouch, Regional Advisor from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), to comment regarding the process. Anthony Crouch stated the EDD forwarded the Modification request to the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB). The CWDB Executive Committee will consider the item at its meeting on February 2, 2022 and will decide whether to move the item onto the full CWDB. The CWDB will meet on February 23, 2022, and vote whether to approve. Then the action will move to the Governor for his approval. Brenda Trainor asked if the action taken by FWDB at today's meeting would be presented to the CWDB Executive Committee. Dianne Russell-Carter stated that a letter would be sent to the State recognizing the motion by the FWDB.

David Eder conducted a roll call vote of the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.
Roll call vote:

Aye – 13 (Lien, Allevalo, Davis, Delgado, Evans, Fertig, Helbing, Hurd, Romero-Shaw, Selinske, Taylor, Trainor, Wheeler)

Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0


Staff stated the next FWDB meeting date would be emailed out to the membership.

Laurie Wheeler stated a job fair held in late November, facilitated by the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and FWDB staff was a success and she specifically thanked FWDB staff member Alma Estevez for her assistance in this event.

Dianne Russell-Carter noted that four long-time FWDB staff members retired in December 2021: Rita Magno, Lynette Beckles, Julie McElrath and Robin Ortiz. Chair Dan Lien noted that there were several retirements at the executive level of the City of Pasadena, the fiscal agent

for the FWDB. Dan Russell-Carter noted that the FWDB staff is under the City Manager Office, and that Eric Duyshart, City of Pasadena's Economic Development Manager, retired in December. David Klug is now the interim Economic Development Manager.

Chair Dan Lien adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Signed: 
Dianne Russell-Carter
Executive Director