

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
Maricopa County Human Services Department  
West Valley Career Center  
1840 North 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ste 160  
Phoenix, Arizona 85037  
Minutes  
April 22, 2010**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Neil Alexander called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call : Quorum**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent/Excused:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Tony Abraham (T)	Adda Alexander	Patrick Burkhart
Neil Alexander	Richard Burrell	Janet Lilly
Judy Blanchard	Ben Candler	Joanna Abbott
Karissa Brnak	Jeff Freeman	Terry Farrell
Che Collins	Barbara Gallegos	Diana Shepherd
Trish Georgeff	Danny Guido	Dawn Zimmer
Dillon Holmes	Belinda Hanson	Kimberly Faust
Tina Huff	Kayong Holston	Arleen Schenck
Katharine Levandowsky(T)	Gabe Loyola	
Blair Liddicoat	Kelsie McClendon	
Tony Maldonado	Velicia McMillan	
Lisa Marra	Bob Neckes	<b>Guests</b>
Rick McCartney	Paul Saunders	Chris Weisser
Rodney Pack	Marie Sullivan	Kirsten Hall
Karen Poole		John Wayne Gonzales
Shannon Scheidt		Jennifer Pittman-Leeper
Ben Serio		Sherman Jennings
Greta Suda		Luis A. Enriquez
Karen Thorne		Ken Hollis
Chevera Trillo		Julie Sater
Nancy Welch		Yolanda Carrothers
Dean Wine		Al Ford
		Jessica Starr

**3. Chairman's Report—For Discussion**

Neil Alexander introduced himself as the Chair of the Board for MWC. He has been Chair for one year and started serving with the Board 6 years ago. Together, both MWC and PWC serve a population of about four million people and many interesting things have happened economically lately. Strategically it is important that we work together to help create better jobs and to work towards economic development. We want to work collaboratively so that we can ensure that we are providing the best services for our customers and so that we can apply for grant dollars together. We had hoped to have Secretary Solis attend today's meeting but she visited last week and met with Mike Fisher, who will share with us information that was discussed.

MWC has several task forces and we talk about how we can work together. The staff from both MWC and PWC has worked well together; we came up with a consistent message to our customers and the businesses we serve, we have worked collaboratively on the Two Year Plan, we have developed the Maricopa Human Capital Collaborative, the Rapid Response collaborative, we have advertised jointly, have produced the ION newsletter together through our Advocacy Task Force, we have conducted joint training, joint outreach and the formation of our Access Point centers and have had close collaboration on stimulus funding. Another joint recommendation was to see more cooperation at the Board level by holding these joint Board meetings. There was also a suggestion to have joint Executive

Committee meetings at least twice a year to share ideas. Some of our common challenges include working more strategically and becoming more innovative.

Mike Fisher from PWC shared that there has been collaboration between the two boards in the past. He also wanted to recognize the visit of Congressman Pastor and the Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis that occurred last week. Tim Valencia from PWC coordinated this quick visit and set up a tour of The Youth Build Project. This visit gave them a better view of what our dollars are being spent on. Secretary Solis was impressed with both the youth involved in this program and the collaborative efforts of all the groups that she met with.

We need to embrace change not complain about change. Arizona has lost over 360,000 jobs and will probably have the slowest recovery. We need to think out of the box on how to provide services to our customers.

#### **4. Welcoming Remarks**

Introduction of Mary Rose Wilcox – due to a conflict of schedule she was unable to make it to the Board meeting today.

#### **5. Governor’s Council On Workforce Policy**

Sherman Jennings, the Chairman of the Governor’s Council, stated that he wanted to echo the comments from Mike Fisher regarding embracing change and innovation. Change is upon us, it is our reality and we need to learn to deal with it. Mr. Jennings is trying to bring a different view to the Governor’s Council since he has joined this group. They have been able to create a new mission and vision statement that sets a new direction. Their new vision statement is “Arizona’s economic landscape will be positively transformed through the integration of education, business, and workforce development”. Their new mission statement is “The mission of the GCWP is to develop, implement, and guide the public workforce system in Arizona to help residents and employers in the state to realize their full potential. This will be accomplished through:

- Anticipating, identifying and responding to the emerging and unmet workforce needs.
- Continuous education and training of current and future workers
- Promoting services available to employers through workforce and education.
- Strategic alignment of public and private resources with the needs of workers and employers.
- Leadership in the development of strategic partnerships with economic development, the workforce system, and state agencies, and business to bring opportunities to the state.”

#### **6. Summary Report from MWC Economic Recovery and Strategic Planning Task Force Groups**

Patrick Burkhart stated that several months ago MWC created two task force groups seeing that the landscape was changing and knowing that we are operating from an obsolete Two Year Plan. One of the task force groups, Strategic Planning, was created to look at a broad set of issues, and a specific Economic Recovery task force was charged to define what a recovery would look like. We brought the two task forces together generated a couple of suggestions that we will discuss today.

Foreclosures and bankruptcies are high and employers are learning to do more with less. Energy costs are fluctuating but slowly increasing. Oil refineries are closing across the country, a long term signal that energy demand is decreasing. Consumer spending is showing slow growth and purchases of durable goods are being delayed, this will affect the time frame of recovery. There is high customer debt and tight credit. Several banks are still in risk of failure. We still have a commercial real estate crisis.

There have been some growth areas, rail transportation is coming back. Nationally manufacturing is picking up and the semi-conductor industry is expecting to increase by 8% this year and 10% next year. We are looking at a modest recovery which will take years to pull out of this recession and unemployment. GPEC has generated 86 new prospects in the past six months with the possibility of 13,000 jobs. The Obama administration is reporting an anticipated growth of 95,000 jobs per month for the rest of the year, but it takes 120,000 jobs per month just to keep up with the rate of new workers entering the workforce.

What are the employment issues? It is our assumption that areas of opportunity are going to remain unclear for some time. In Maricopa County it is thought that solar, green, healthcare, and financial services are the areas that will probably see recovery first. Other assumptions are that public assistance will remain high and the quality of the

workforce in terms of skills and education will remain unchanged or have a slight increase in the next five years. Federally, WIA funding has been flat for the last two years after eight years a steady decline. Two thirds of the ARRA funds as of December have yet to be spent. So our assumptions are; (1) more work with less funding, and (2) potential changes to WIA may include streamlining and simplification.

#### **7. MWC-PWC Progress Report and Opportunities for Regional Collaboration—*For Discussion***

Cynthia Spell shared with the group an overview of their accomplishments over the past six months in the workforce region. She was also able to spend time with Secretary Solis and her message seems to have remained consistent. The message from the DOL has also been consistent: we are trying to get people back to work and to make sure that we are able to assist both employers and people looking to get employment. She also reiterated that WIA reauthorization is again on the table and hopefully legislators will listen to comments from the workforce community as to what is needed in order to help people get back to work. Cynthia, Patrick, Stan Flowers and a few people from DES went to San Francisco a few weeks ago at the request of Regional Administrator to discuss the expenditure of ARRA funds. They are concerned that we are able to spend the ARRA funds as per the mandate that was set of 70% by September. We need to make sure we are spending the funds expeditiously and that our records reflect that we assisted both customers and employers. The Summer Youth Employment program is ready to start again and we need to make sure that we are able to use the ARRA funds to assist youth with services they may require and to find employment for them.

The Maricopa Human Collaborative group which was started about a year ago includes both PWC, MWC and local workforce groups outside of WIA. MHCC has met and applied for several DOL grants. These meetings helped with possibilities of bringing more services to the community. Another aspect of our Regional priority is an expanded role with economic development. Right now economic developers and GPEC are taking an active role in making sure that workforce is involved in some of the business attraction, retention and expansion projects that are going on within the community and we want to make sure we are active in filling some of these requests.

Regarding the Recovery Act and accountability, PWC has been able to increase their service capacity by bringing on more temporary staff. They have also been able to serve more Youth, Adults and Dislocated Workers and enhance their outreach to businesses. They also received a grant along with MWC for \$168,000 through the end of June of 2011 to reach out to faith based organizations so people can be serviced in their community.

#### **8. Election of MWC Officers—*Action Item MWC Board ONLY***

Rick McCartney, President and CEO of InMedia Company, LLC was recommended to fill the office of Chair Elect to the MWC Full and Executive Board. **Tony Maldonado made a motion to approve the appointment of Rick McCartney to serve as the Chair Elect on the MWC Full and Executive Board. Karen Poole seconded the motion. The motion carried pending approval from the BOS.**

Ben Serio, Human Resources Manager with Amazon.com was recommended to fill the office of Vice Chair to the MWC Full and Executive Board. **Che Collins made a motion to approve the appointment of Ben Serio to serve as the Vice Chair on the MWC Full and Executive Board. Trish Georgeff seconded the motion. The motion carried pending approval from the BOS.**

#### **9. Call to the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Neil Alexander adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.