

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
FULL BOARD MEETING
Maricopa County Human Services Department
234 North Central, Ste 3201
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Minutes
February 26, 2009**

1. Call to Order

Chair John Garza called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

2. Roll Call : Quorum

Present:	Absent/Excused:	Staff Present:
Tony Abraham	Dori Beattie(E)	Patrick Burkhart
Adda Alexander(T)	Karen Thorne(E)	Terry Farrell
Neil Alexander	Trish Georgeff(E)	Laurie Ontiveros
Vania Black	Tina Huff(E)	Tina Schoville
John Garza	Rebecca Flanagan(E)	Dawn Zimmer
Ben Candler	Danny Guido(E)	Rudy Barcelo
Belinda Hanson	Joel Millman	Janet Lilly
Kayong Holston	Rod Miller(E)	Barb Rorwick
Tony Maldonado	Steve Prokopek(E)	Joanna Abbott
Blair Liddicoat	Bob Neckes(E)	Diana Shepherd
Gabe Loyola	Pam Ross(E)	Bill O'Brien
Kelsie McClendon	Jim Ponte	
Katharine Levandowsky(T)	Che Collins(E)	
Karen Poole		
Don Smith		
Greta Suda		Guests
Marie Sullivan		Ron Griffin
Chevera Trillo(T)		Patrick Harrington
Mike Wall		Adam Soto
Nancy Welch		
Dean Wine		
Brady Young(T)		
Richard Burrell(T)		

3. Approval of minutes—Action

Neil Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2008. Mike Wall seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Chairman's Report—Action

John Garza reported that Pam Ross with Honeywell will be leaving the Board but will remain on the Governor's Workforce Development Council. She has recommended Jeff Freeman who is the manager of Business Partnerships for Honeywell. **Tony Maldonado made a motion to approve the nomination of Jeff Freeman to the Board. Nancy Welch seconded the motion. The nomination of Jeff Freeman was approved.**

5. Presentation—For Information Only

Mr. Pat Harrington with the Arizona Department of Economic Security shared with the group that on the Workforce side, DES has many programs that are federally funded and because of the stimulus there are many more programs. He also shared that even some of the programs that have been given cuts from the State level will be impacted by the stimulus. He reported that Governor Brewer has established a process to review the terms of the use of stimulus dollars. She also signed an agreement to accept the additional \$25 weekly for unemployment benefit services. Currently the numbers are off the dial from recent experience versus previous

years of people applying for this service. DES is currently working on a plan to try and hire enough staff to handle the large curve in the unemployment rate. The programs are administered locally so programs run differently within the State. As long as the requirements are met from the grant, then it is DES's job as coordinator and to officer technical support. They do not make the policy but go by the standards already in place. They now have the opportunity to make changes but they also need to ramp up services to provide better services to employers and to those seeking employment. Both the Gilbert One Stop and West Valley Career Center are two of the best one-stop service providers in the country, per Federal officials who have visited the centers at Mr. Harrington's request. Both centers have been successful at intergrading services such as for disabled persons. Staff has also been creative on building upon and expanding services offered to customers.

6. Assistant Director Report—*For information only*

Patrick Burkhart reported that we are currently putting plans together for expenditure of the Stimulus funding that will be coming to Maricopa County by mid-March. We are expecting to receive \$34.0 million dollars for the State of Arizona and our share will be approximately \$6,250,000 in funding that must be spent by June 30, 2010. We are waiting for the D.O.L. guidance letter regarding spending of these funds. Other related Stimulus funds anticipated for Arizona are estimated at \$46.5 million for Weatherization, \$10.2 million for Voc Rehab, \$10.3 million for UI State Administrative Grant, \$6.8 million for Employment Service and \$567 million for Highways and Bridges. We are currently implementing a new triage system at the Centers to enable us to give rapid services to customers as needed.

Neil Alexander shared with the group that the trip to Washington D.C. in February was successful. Patrick and Neil met with six legislative staff and one Congressional staffer that were familiar with WIA, versus last year when not many legislators were familiar with our program. Last year our message was regarding the recession and funds that were taken away from our programs. This year our message was letters of support that will be necessary when the new collaboration committee applies for grants that are now available to Workforce programs.

7. Call to the Public

There were no comments from the public.

8. Adjournment

Chair Garza adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.