

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
FULL BOARD MEETING
Maricopa County Human Services Department
West Valley Career Center
1840 North 95th 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.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call: Quorum

Present:	Absent/Excused:	Staff Present:
Tony Abraham	Judy Blanchard	Janet Lilly
Neil Alexander	Kathryn Collins	Joanna Abbott
Patrick Burkhart	Jeff Freeman	Kimberly Faust
Adda Alexander	Danny Guido	Dawn Zimmer
Karissa Brnak (T)	Dillon Holmes	Kevin Berry
Richard Burrell (T)	Kayong Holston	Diana Shepherd
Ben Candler	Blair Liddicoat	
Barbara Gallegos	Lisa Marra	
Trish Georgeff	Velicia McMillan	
Belinda Hanson	Bob Neckes	
Tina Huff (T)	Paul Sanders	
Katherine Levandowsky (T)	Ben Serio	
Gabe Joyola	Greta Suda	
Tony Maldonado	Chevera Trillo	
Rick McCartney	Dean Wine	
Kelsie McClendon (T)		
Rodney Pack		
Karen Poole		
Shannon Scheidt		
Marie Sullivan		
Karen Thorne		
Nancy Welch		

Chair Alexander recommended moving action items to the top of the agenda to ensure quorum in the event attendees on the phone become disconnected. Board members agreed with the change.

4. Approval of Minutes (February 24, 2010)– Action Item

Tony Maldonado made a motion to approve the February 24, 2010 Board Minutes. Rick McCartney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Technical Change to Two-Year Plan – Action Item

Patrick Burkhart provided background on the use of limited or unlimited funding as set forth in DES Guidance Letter (#04-09) clarifying the definitions of “Limited” and “Unlimited” funding as the terms pertain to the disbursement of WIA training funds. He cited the declaration of “Unlimited” funding can only be satisfied if: The LWIA receives funds from other sources greater than or equal to 50% of the total allocation of WIA Adult funds, and the LWIA receives in-king contributions from other sources that are greater than or equal to 25% of the total allocation of WIA Adult funds, and the local area has an unemployment rate less than the state average, and existing WIA funds will allow the LWIA to serve all eligible Adult participants.

Patrick noted that MWC does not meet any of these criteria. He provided background on the process of providing public review of the updated Plan language (Feb. 26 to March 27) as required in order to be in compliance. He continued providing clarification of funding streams and a deeper description of who MWC's Adult customers are. He suggested the group review page 3 of the Proposed Amendment for DES' definition of the "most in need" ... "Most in need individuals can be characterized as those who face multiple employment barriers in addition to their income status. The determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. These target groups include older workers, veterans & eligible spouses, homeless individuals, ex-offenders and single parents.

It was noted Marie Sullivan joined the group.

Tony Maldonado asked if the language would change eligibility of some current customers. Patrick responded noting MWC currently operates serving those most in need; noting the new language brings the organization into compliance.

Discussion continued highlighting MWC's current process of providing services to those most in need including dislocated workers and veterans. A question was raised about how MWC staff matches most in need and suitability when determining the use of WIA funds. The response included an overview of the Center Orientation content and the 'scoring' process used by Career Guidance Specialists which are discussed at weekly team meetings; note was made that customers not originally approved for WIA funded training are not precluded for consideration based on a change in requested line of training. Customers not approved for training dollars are encouraged to continue to receive case-managed job search assistance and Center offerings (including partner services).

Marie Sullivan noted a necessary change in the Proposed Amendment to state "ex-offenders" where it currently states "offenders."

A motion was requested to adopt the Proposed Two-Year Local Workforce Investment Plan (4/22/10) with the requested editorial update. Marie Sullivan made a motion which was seconded. The Motion Carried.

5. **Chairmen's Report – For Discussion**

Board member term renewals -- Neil started with his report noting there are a number of terms expiring June 30, 2010 and that a 49/51 representation is needed between the public and private industries. MWC staff will engage with members to discuss renewing terms. Neil then reinforced the need for participation by the group to continue to obtain quorum at the bi-monthly meetings. He asked that private industry representatives please refer contacts on green energy, manufacturing and healthcare.

Governor Brewer's proposal to disband the Arizona Department of Commerce and create the Arizona Commerce Authority -- Neil read a section of a comparative study by the Governor's Commerce Advisory Council which explained the intended role and makeup of the Authority. The group was encouraged to contact Patrick if they would like a copy of the lengthy study. Neil continued reading excerpts from the study regarding funding for the Authority; its main impact to garner funding partnerships with the business community, fold in the Governor's Policy Council, and follow a GPEC model (which GPEC supports). Rodney Pack noted that apprenticeships currently rely heavily on DOC. Marie asked if financial support would come from the State's General Fund. Neil again read from the report stating there would be State funding but it is suggested that additional funding streams be identified from the private sectors including fees and tax credits; a pay as services are used is a suggested method of gaining funds. Nancy Welch found it interesting that workforce entities are rolled into the Authority and others were not addressed. Patrick continued the thought noting the Department of Labor's research capability would be included in the Authority but others were not. Rick McCartney asked if the plan address budget items. Neil responded reading from the Plan noting that 9 million was budgeted for FY 2008 and 6 million for 2010; again noting the idea is to go out and secure additional funding sources. The group again discussed GPEC's role and support of the Plan.

6. **Advocacy Task Force Report – For Discussion**

Patrick provided a summary of the changing focus of the Advocacy Task Force stating the group, in partnership with Phoenix Workforce Connection, plans to provide more business focused messages in the monthly *Items of Note*. Proposed new messaging would position MWC/PWC as catalysts in economic recovery and be sent to local employer contacts. Rick asked if the purpose would be to set up MWC/PWC as workforce authorities. Patrick confirmed noting business contacts and requests for assistance has been picking up. He provided a summary of current recruitments being conducted at the Career Centers. Neil asked how the *ION* would be distributed to the business community. Patrick informed the group that the Task Force has only had one strategic planning discussion on the matter but that the first steps would be to disseminate the *ION* to MWC's current 1,200 employer contacts and to Chambers. Neil noted that MWC postponed its trip to D.C. as PWC was attending; it didn't make sense to dilute the message with additional representation by MWC.

7. **Youth Council Report – For Discussion**

Tony provided information regarding a new DOL Guidance Letter which includes a renewed focus on the ‘hardest to serve’ noting a de-emphasis on throughput and a suggestion to develop new Performance Measures based on individual participant milestones. He highlighted the need for the Council to move beyond statutory measures to develop real-time indicators to measure performance. Tony closed noting it is possible that new RFP’s would be released later this year. Gabe Loyola questioned whether statutory requirement or State requirements may lead to ‘creaming’ and feels this issue should be looked at closely. Patrick explained that the guidance focuses on serving the most in need kids and to forget performance measures; a innovative program evaluation that marks process of participants and isn’t as concerned with speedy exits. Gabe was okay as long as that what the language states. Patrick confirmed noting the Guidance reviews a San Diego program; which, in part, is what prompted DOL’s letter.

9. **Assistant Director’s Report – *For Discussion***

MWC Performance – Patrick shared with the group that the information he was about to provide was prompted by the System’s Effectiveness Task Force which Nancy Welch chaired. MWC is meeting or exceeding 14 of 15 performance measures. Half of the older youth obtaining is an important piece; MWC must obtain a 58.4% to ‘meet’ this measure currently MWC has a 27.4% -- an additional 30 youth are required to enter employment. He continued emphasizing the importance of MWC and PWC meeting performance measures because the groups hold 85% of the performance goals for the state. Chevera Trillo noted that Maximus’ data is preliminary (not official) and is sure the low employment rate is related to economic conditions. Patrick summarized Rio Salado ABE Program data for the group. Nancy pointed out the importance of voting for Proposition 100 as it relates to ABE programs. Karen Poole shared the importance of Perkins funding and federal block grants. Tony noted the 1% sales tax as approved by the State legislature. Belinda Hanson commended on DES’ performance data noting the information was Statewide, not specific to Maricopa County.

New Access Points – Patrick informed the group that 5 additional Access Points were added since the last Board meeting.

WIA Allocation – Patrick shared that a \$2.6 increase in MWC formula funding is expected. Notifications should be sent later today.

ARRA Budget Overview – Patrick provided a summary of ARRA spending based on funding streams.

Recent Economic Data – Patrick provided several ppt slides with information from current reports and media outlets. He said he will not go into the findings too deeply except to point out the Defense Department World International report suggests oil production/supply to peak between 2012 and 2015 which is 12 years earlier than expected.

10. **Call to the Public**

Gabe provided an explanation for the colored paper letters he was wearing on his shirt.

11. **Adjournment**

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.