

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

Minutes
April 23, 2009

1. Call to Order

Nancy Welch called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. Roll Call : Quorum

Present:	Absent/Excused:	Staff Present:
Tony Abraham	Dori Beattie	Patrick Burkhart
Ben Candler	Karen Thorne(E)	Terry Farrell
Che Collins(T)	Jim Ponte(E)	Tina Schoville
Jeff Freeman	Tina Huff	Kevin Berry
Trish Georgeff	Rebecca Flanagan(E)	Dawn Zimmer
Belinda Hanson	Danny Guido	Derrick Martin
Kayong Holston	Joel Millman(E)	Janet Lilly
Blair Liddicoat	Rod Miller(E)	Barb Rorwick
Gabe Layola	Steve Prokopek(E)	Joanna Abbott
Kelsie McClendon(T)	Bob Neckes(E)	Diana Shepherd
Katharine Levandowsky(T)	Neil Alexander(E)	Kimberly Faust
Karen Poole	John Garza	
Pam Ross	Tony Maldonado(E)	
Don Smith(T)	Mike Wall(E)	
Greta Suda	Brady Young(E)	
Marie Sullivan	Richard Burrell	
Chevera Trillo(T)	Vania Black(E)	
Nancy Welch		
Dean Wine		

3. Approval of minutes—Action

Pam Ross made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2009. Gabe Layola seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Chairman’s Report—Action

Pam Ross expressed her joy for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board and all the accomplishments that have been made. A promotion at Honeywell has taken her to a corporate position that will not allow her the time to keep her commitment to the Board. She introduced Jeff Freeman as her replacement. He has taken on her former role at Honeywell. Nancy Welch also shared the resignation of Adda Alexander with the Arizona Hospital and Health Care Associations.

Gabe Loyola made a motion to approve the nomination of Jeff Freeman to the Board. Dean Wine seconded the motion. The nomination of Jeff Freeman was approved.

5. Youth Council Report—For Information Only

Don Smith shared with the group an update on the ARRA Planning of stimulus dollars. The MWC Youth Council approved planning for a combined Summer Youth Work Experience Program and an expansion of the ongoing Occupational Skills Training Program – final plan will serve approximately 637 summer WEX, and 200 additional ongoing clients. The Council also approved a policy change of the 5% holdback for ineligible youth has been waived. They also approved to seek waivers for: first using Pell Grant dollars, relaxation of reimbursement rules to ensure on time payrolls for summer WEX and sudden job loss as an eligibility criterion to adjust for income ineligibility. Don also shared that the huge amount of work that was done to create this WEX program is much appreciated.

6. MWC Task Force Reports—*For Information Only*

Advocacy: Greta Suda shared that the Advocacy Task Force is currently publishing a joint monthly “ION” newsletter with MWC/PWC in April. She also reported that MWC supported the Arizona SHRM Capitol Advocacy Day in February of this year. Recently MWC has received media exposure in the Arizona Republic, lead story for the March 12th edition, on Channels 12, 15 and Telemundo and in the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce *Impact Magazine*.

Partners’ Committee: Terry Farrell reported that the first organizational meeting was held and the discussions included: picking up work and recommendations from the Systems Effectiveness Task Force regarding performance model, customer satisfaction, value mapping and data sharing.

System Effectiveness Accountability: Nancy Welch shared that things are still on track to continue to improve our system and continue to work through our partners to continue to improve our effectiveness. They also talked about creating for MWC a model for Return on Investment (ROI) and Nancy shared that just recently a model has come out of Florida that we may try to replicate.

Business Services: Patrick reported to the group that this task force had their first accountability meeting to follow up on their report from their existence last year. They also reported out on the status of the models for both Healthcare and Solar. Because of the healthcare setbacks adjustments have been made to the model. They also discussed the triage that is currently in progress at the Gilbert One Stop and the progress of this at the WVCC. They also discussed the potential growth and economic recovery and how that is reshaping the committees planning.

Collaboration Task Force: Dean Wine reported that this committee has met a couple of times and are examining areas where MWC and PWC can collaborate together. There is currently an existing agreement (IGA) between MWC and PWC to share information and resources. They are looking into how the two Boards differ, whereas PWC is more process oriented and MWC’s Board is more policy orientated. They are also looking into maybe scheduling a joint event for both Boards in the fall. They have also invited Cynthia Spell and another Board member to attend out next scheduled meeting so that they can discussion action items and areas where they might be able to help each other out.

7. Assistant Director Report—*For Information Only*

Patrick Burkhart shared with the group that he wanted to bring everyone up to date on the status of the stimulus dollars. The state is currently at 7.8 percent unemployment and that number may reach 10% by the end of the calendar year. Currently there are eight states reporting 10% or higher unemployment and there are approximately 600,000 new claims a week nationally. He also shared that the purpose of the ARRA is to invest in infrastructure, create jobs, strengthen unemployment safety net, spur innovation and stabilize the economy and create growth. For the WIA, Arizona was allotted \$42, 850,012 and MWC’s allocation was \$7,780,000. A breakdown of these dollars is; \$1,360,950 for Adult, \$3,332,856 for DW/RR and \$3,180,757 for Youth. The ARRA features for MWC are:

- Transparency and Reporting Enhanced
- Expedited Use of ARRA-WIA Funds
- “Significant Increase” in Customers Served
- Emphasis on NRPs and Support Services Payments
- Summer Youth Employment – Urgent and Large
- Align to Regional Economic Development
- Dual Customer Focus to Continue
- Serve Low Income and Low Skill Populations
- Close Partnership with UI
- \$750 Million in Competitive Grants

He also shared the following regarding the FY09, FY10 WIA funding:

- FY09 Funding Did Not Replace FY08 Budget Cut and Rescission – MWC Lost \$3 Million
- FY10 WIA Funding May Increase According to President’s Budget Summary
 - Detailed DOL Budget Due for Release on April 15th – It’s Late
- WDD Has Not Grown to Meet Increased Demand

The MWC/WDD ARRA planning process consisted of; preliminary planning from December to February, the ARRA was signed on February 27th and detailed planning began on that day for our funding. The MWC Readiness Process Improvements included; AzMEP Value Mapping, the Louisiana Model regarding both triage and assessments first, the Dislocated Worker Center concept borrowed from Pima County and the System Effectiveness Task Force led to the new Standing Partners Committee. The relationship between

MWC, PWC and MCCCCD has brought forth a major effort to upgrade MCCCCD Certificate Curricula to focus on Renewable, Solar, Green and Alternative Energy options. A recommendation was also addressed regarding that MWC delete both the automotive and constructions fields from it targeted industries and instead insert Solar and Green. They have also worked on upgrading IBEW and other Solar/Green apprentice programs participation. Maximus approached us to enter into a new relationship whereas TANF clients will be pre-certified for WIA. We have also met with DES and PWC to discuss closer coordination of re-employment services and WIA plans. Regarding our alignment to regional economic development, the Business Services task force has focused on both Solar and Healthcare, which are the same focus areas for GPEC. The Summer Youth Work Experience has been a challenge and we have rolled out our plan from scratch in ten weeks. We were able to fast track and reached out to our providers for recruitments, outreached to eligible youth and enrollment, secured work sites and confirmed providers budgets and recruitment goals. As of the date of this meeting we have secured worksites from 24 employers and confirmed 266 positions. The number of youth that have applied so far is 316 with applications coming in every day. This program opened up 2 ½ weeks ago and we still have 2 ½ weeks to finish receiving applications. The preliminary ARRA Youth Plan was approved by the MWC Youth Council on March 19th of this year and the MWC Executive Committee on April 2nd. We will be spending 68% of the full allocation in the Summer Youth Program which allows approximately \$3,400 per participant over the summer period. Also the occupational training will continue and we will use 32% of the funds to continue this program. This will spend all of the ARRA youth dollars in one year. The Executive Board approved policy changes that were needed by approving waivers for the Youth program. Regarding the Adult/DW rollout, by mid to late April we plan; the triage to be implemented at the WVCC, triage updated for DW track, IGA's from DES processed and have plan amendments ready to present to the MWC Board. By mid May we plan; WDD reorganization to be completed, the new hiring commenced, the Gilbert capacity to be resolved and STS staff absorption to be resolved. Implementation constraints we are dealing with are; adult and DW enrollment and the limited use of ARRA for staff/operations. The Solana project plans by mid June to; determine and execute size and scope of OJT, to determine a site location in Gila Bend and secure, and to hire one to two staff for Gila Bend and equipment to furnish a space for a worksite. An update regarding the DOL Readiness Review that was completed on April 9th, issues discussed were; first use of Pell grants, relaxation of reimbursement rules for making summer youth work experience payrolls and the use of sudden job loss as an eligibility criteria for youth program services. Also to update DES, we requested that local areas use sudden job loss as a barrier to employment criteria. The Two Year Plan Proposed Amendments are as follows:

- ITAs
 - Current Ceiling is \$4,000/\$6,000
 - Amend to \$6,000/\$8,000
 - Amend Two Year Re-entry to Case By Case Review
- Targeted Industries
 - Delete Automotive and Construction
 - Replace with Solar/Sustainable/Green
- MWC Partners
 - Delete Troops to Teachers, AzDVS and Title V
 - Insert Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.
- Policy Changes
 - Enhance Supportive Services Payments
 - Restrict Needs Related Payments to Urgent Cases with No Other Options
- Insert – ARRA Youth Plan
- Insert – Waivers Obtained from DOL/DES

Pam Ross made a motion to approve the MWC Two Year Plan Proposed Amendments that were presented and to give future consideration to greater involvement from the nonprofit sector. Gabe Loyola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Call to the Public

There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjournment

Nancy Welch adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.