

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
Maricopa County Human Services Department  
234 North Central, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Arizona Room  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004  
Minutes  
August 27, 2009**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Neil Alexander called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**2. Roll Call : Quorum**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent/Excused:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Adda Alexander	Tony Abraham	Patrick Burkhart
Neil Alexander	Karissa Bonkrude	Janet Lilly
Judy Blanchard	Richard Burrell	Virginia Sturgill
Jeff Freeman(T)	Ben Candler	Kevin Berry
Barbara Gallegos	Che Collins	Dawn Zimmer
Trish Georgeff	Danny Guido	Diana Shepherd
Belinda Hanson	Tina Huff	Kimberly Faust
Dillon Holmes	Blair Liddicoat	Tina Schoville
Kayong Holston(T)	Kelsie McClendon	
Katharine Levandowsky(T)	Velicia McMillan	<b>Guests</b>
Gabe Loyola	Bob Neckes	Paul Saunders
Tony Maldonado	Steve Prokopek	
Lisa Marra	Nancy Welch	
Rick McCartney		
Rod Miller		
Rodney Pack		
Karen Poole(T)		
Shannon Scheidt		
Ben Serio		
Don Smith		
Greta Suda		
Marie Sullivan		
Karen Thorne		
Chevera Trillo		
Dean Wine		

**3. Approval of minutes—Action Item**

**Greta Suda made a motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2009. Dean Wine seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.**

**4. Chairman’s Report—Action Item**

Neil Alexander reported that for planning for the next year, we want to bring forth two new task force groups, Strategic Planning and Economic Recovery. The stimulus funding has hastened the system and required that we spend these dollars quickly. These funds were used in the Summer Youth Work Program. Soon the stimulus dollars will be gone and we need to start planning on where we can acquire additional funds. The first group will be the Strategic Planning group and will be a broader focus group that will do a general assessment of our resources, of our operations and demographic needs and the focus will be to put together a new Two Year Plan. Part of this group will be business focused and develop concrete ways that we can continue to help the business community. The second group is a more narrowed project group and will work with economists and reach out to where in the business community new job growth is going to come from. The Advocacy task force will continue with their assigned tasks. Regarding a time frame, we are hoping to have these task forces proposed and regulated by October 1<sup>st</sup> with a completion date of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at which time there will be a full report out of recommendations to the Full Board.

**Don Smith made a motion to accept the creation of two new task forces, the Strategic Planning and the Economic Recovery. Tony Maldonado seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**5. Nominating Committee Report—*Action Item***

Neil Alexander introduced Paul Sanders, the Circulation and Marketing Director from The Business Journal. Paul shared his work history and organizations that he is active in. He has been invited to join the MWC Board as a private sector member.

**Gabe Loyola made a motion to accept the nomination for the new Board member, Paul Saunders from the Business Journal. Tony Maldonado seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**6. Arizona Women’s Education and Employment, Inc.—*For Information Only***

Marie Sullivan from AWEE gave a presentation of information regarding their program. She shared that their vision is: AWEE will be Arizona’s premier private workforce development organization and their mission statement is: Changing lives through the dignity of work. They currently provide services for both Maricopa and Yavapai counties and have a new expansion office in Gila County. Their main focus of their program is a prison entry for women and they are grant funded. They are currently working on a grant, “Pathways Out of Poverty”, a grant that stipulates that one stops be mandated partners to CEO’s and other entities that would impact the quality of life particularly around employment for multiple families in a high poverty community. The grant award comes out of competitive Workforce Development stimulus money; it is not the chunk of change that comes from the State that gets disbursed. If one is competing at a local level then there is up to \$4 million available per grant award that can be made. So their coalition came together and decided to be aggressive and apply for that money and after discussion, a consensus decided that AWEE would take the lead on this grant application. If awarded, this grant will have a large impact to our community in our area, which will basically include the South Phoenix area and also specified a specific group of people who would receive services, ex-offenders, veterans, drop out youth or disadvantaged individuals. Another component will focus on how this link will green industry, so they have a number of employers that are at the table that are focused on apprenticeship programs that are focusing on green employment. The timeline for this grant is short; it was released in mid June and has to be submitted by September 29<sup>th</sup>. We are trying to have this ready for submittal by September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Advocacy Task Force Report—*For Information Only***

Greta Suda shared that the Advocacy Task Force group started last May, 2007, and is still sending out the ION (Items of Note) to legislators in Washington D.C. She also shared that Congressman Harry Mitchell will be visiting the Gilbert One Stop on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and will continue on with a visit to Mesa Community College. She reported that the last job fair sponsored by Jobing.com had a different twist to help make the experience work better for attendees. They held a Career Fair and offered workshops before the event with trainers from MWC. These workshops served over 300 people, who helped them become better prepared to talk to the employers that attended this event.

**8. PWC Partnership Task Force Report—*For Information Only***

Dean Wine reported that the task force members met with Cynthia Spell and Mike Fisher from PWC. Suggestions were discussed regarding forming a regional business team to work together between PWC, MWC and DES. Mike Fisher suggested working on establishing closer Board interaction between both Boards. The next scheduled task force meeting in October will bring forth recommendations to bring these two Boards together.

**9. Youth Council Report—*For Information Only***

Don Smith reported that the Summer Youth Work Program, which was funded by stimulus funds, reached 99% of the total goal and served 597 participants out of the targeted 600 youth planned for. He took a moment to recognize the great effort from both the staff of WDD and the youth providers that made this program successful. The youth providers have continued to meet and exceed their measures. The business at the West Valley Youth Career center is still very brisk with the number of customers and new customers. Regarding the PLOT program, they have a small program that helps about 30 youth per year, which is financed through the Governors Discretionary Funding, working with youth to help them market themselves. This program is at risk of losing funding and Patrick is looking at possibly funding this program in the future through special grant funds. Any Board members that can come up with any suggestions of possible funding for this program please feel free to bring them forward.

**10. Assistant Director Report—*For Information Only***

Patrick wanted to share with everyone that the Gilbert Career Center remodel is almost complete. Both the telephone system and bandwidth have been upgraded and because of security issues we have made changes to the layout and added security doors. We should have this finished in a few weeks and this project was funded by set-aside dollar through DES. Another item is regarding the budget issues with partnering organizations we have lost several staff from other programs especially at the West Valley Career Center and we are trying to recruit other organizations to occupy these areas that have a collaborative effort such as we have. We are hoping to bring in additional revenue with this effort. Also to key off from Marie’s presentation regarding grant opportunities, there are other efforts under way, there is an Energy Training Partnership proposal that Arizona Building Trades has taken the lead on and Dean Wine has been working on that. The State will be proposing under the stimulus dollars for an energy related Green Proposal which he and a group of others will be putting together through a task force.

Patrick also reported that due to budget costs we needed to cap the training dollars for ITA’s. We previously raised the cap from \$4 to 6 thousand to \$6 to 8 thousand because we were under pressure to spend the ARRA dollars in the first year. However in order to not burn cash so fast we have recommended to cap the training dollars to \$4,000 per individual training account so that we will be able to satisfy more of our customers with training opportunities.

**11. Call to the Public**

Gabe Loyola shared with everyone that the presentation from Marie Sullivan was great and they focus their target on performance, not funding. We announced that we, as members of the board, can contribute financially during their annual event by buying tables at this event.

**12. Adjournment**

Neil Alexander adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.