

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
FULL BOARD MEETING
Maricopa County Human Services Department
735 North Gilbert Road, #134
Gilbert, Arizona 85234
Minutes
October 22, 2009**

1. Call to Order

Chair Neil Alexander called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

2. Roll Call : Quorum

| Present: | Absent/Excused: | Staff Present: |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tony Abraham | Adda Alexander | Patrick Burkhart |
| Neil Alexander | Karissa Bonkrude | Terry Farrell |
| Judy Blanchard | Richard Burrell | Joanna Abbott |
| Ben Candler | Che Collins | Janet Lilly |
| Jeff Freeman(T) | Danny Guido | Diana Shepherd |
| Barbara Gallegos | Kayong Holston | Tina Schoville |
| Trish Georgeff | Tony Maldonado | |
| Belinda Hanson | Velicia McMillan | |
| Dillon Holmes | Rodrick Miller | |
| Tina Huff(T) | Bob Neckes | |
| Katharine Levandowsky(T) | Steve Prokopak | |
| Blair Liddicoat | Ben Serio | Guests |
| Gabe Loyola | Greta Suda | Melanie Benitez |
| Lisa Marra | Chevera Trillo | Amy Rocker |
| Rick McCartney | Nancy Welch | |
| Kelsie McClendon(T) | Dean Wine | |
| Rodney Pack(T) | | |
| Karen Poole | | |
| Paul Saunders | | |
| Shannon Scheidt | | |
| Don Smith | | |
| Marie Sullivan | | |
| Karen Thorne | | |

3. Approval of minutes—*Action Item*

Don Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2009. Tony Abraham seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Chairman’s Report—*For Information Only*

Neil Alexander shared with everyone that we have divided up into two new groups, the Strategic Planning and the Economic Recovery Task Force groups. Most of the people that have signed up for these groups are private sector members. At this time the initial meetings are being calendared and if anyone has any interest in becoming part of these Task Forces they should let us know.

Neil also shared that him, Patrick, Cynthia Spell and Mike Fisher met to discuss issues on how to get Board member engaged in Board activities. They also discussed the collaboration between both PWC and MWC on the submission of regional grants that have been applied for. Neil also brought forth a discussion on the subject of a joint meeting between the two Boards that is currently being planned for February 25th. The meeting scheduled for December will be moved since it falls on the 24th.

Neil shared with the group that Don Smith will be resigning from the Board and as Chair of the Youth Council due to the fact that he has accepted a job in Wyoming as the director of a program similar to the Project Challenge program he is currently working at. The committee has been very successful due to his leadership and the

challenge that they faced with the ARRA Summer Youth Work Experience program. The vice chair, Tony Maldonado will step into his place as Chair.

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

Since Greta Suda was not able to attend this meeting, this report was skipped. However Neil did discuss the latest issue of the ION that was sent to the Board members to make sure they take note of the information it provides.

6. PWC Partnership Task Force Report.—*Action Item*

Patrick Burkhart reported that one of the functions of our Board is to form Task Forces and one that was created was to look over the relationship between the PWC Board and our Board. We overviewed the staff relationship between the two organizations, the leadership relationship between both Cynthia Spell and himself, and at the last Task Force meeting we invited PWC's Board chair, Mr. Fisher and Cynthia to join us from the PWC Board to discuss their perspective on how the relationship is working. They discussed that at the staff level, we are where we should be but they would like to bring together a business team to work together. **Two recommendations came forth from these Task Force meetings; the first being that MWC staff should continue its very active and strong engagement of PWC staff at all managerial levels. The second recommendation was that MWC and PWC Board leadership (officers) should meet jointly no less than every six months to ensure that each organization's efforts are strategically aligned and synergistic. Further, the Task Force recommends that the results of these meetings be reported to the full MWC Board. Don Smith made a motion to approve the recommendations from the Task Force, Marie Sullivan seconded the motion on the condition that at the next meeting we see measurable outcomes tied to the recommendations. The motion carried.**

7. Youth Council Report—*For Information Only*

Don Smith shared that he will miss this group and his youth council members. Regarding the Summer Youth Work Experience program, there were 602 participants, 60 employers and 118 worksites. The population of that was pretty diverse, 33% Caucasian, 15% African American, 26% Hispanic, 9% Native American and 1% other. Dollars expended \$1,482,330 which was half of the ARRA dollars that were awarded to us. Regarding ARRA, we had a DOL technical assistance visit on 10/5 and 10/6 and during that time the provider plans were updated emphasizing on green components and will serve about 200 youth.

Patrick shared that they had solicited draft plans from the providers and was contacted and offered some technical assistance from DOL. They sent a technical assistant who spent two days with the youth providers and staff and they revamped the transitional summer program to a year round program. They are aiming to move as many of the summer youth participants from the summer program to the year round program at this time. They are shooting for an additional 200 participants with a cost of \$785,000 for this effort and the balance of the planning from ARRA, plus what can be allocated from regular funding will allow us to replicate the summer work experience program for next year either at the same capacity or larger if possible.

Both Neil and Patrick took a minute to share the accomplishments that have been accomplished with the leadership of Don Smith to the Youth Council board.

8. Assistant Director Report—*For Information Only*

Patrick started his report by sharing the accomplishments to the Gilbert One Stop. Due to set aside dollars allocated for this update, the remodel of this facility has been completed. With the leadership of the Center coordinator, Terry Farrell who coordinated this effort, all of the updated features were accomplished. The two most important features were the updated phone system and the bandwidth. There were also safety and security issues that needed to be dealt with.

Another important topic to discuss is to do something of a situation analysis for everyone. He wanted to share some thoughts of what is in our future and what we need to discuss in the two new task force groups that are being formed. We have had some forecasting done by ASU, U of A and Dept of Commerce are forecasting what they are expecting to happen in the next year and the information is fairly wide ranging. AZDOC is expecting 178,500 jobs lost in 2009, Arizona projected to lose 17,300 jobs in 2010, ASU predicted 24,000 jobs and U of A predicted 61,000 so the numbers are not consistent with each other in any of the reports. Arizona ranks 50th among the states in rate of job creation. There have been almost 350,000 construction jobs lost in Arizona since they peaked in 2007. There is no job growth expected in 2010, jobs are not expected to start peaking until 2013 and unemployment is not expected to come in below 6% until 2014. The National Retail Federation has forecasted that holiday sales are expected to be down another 1% from last year's 3.4% and there will be approximately 25%

fewer seasonal retail workers hired in 2009. The Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks Metro Phoenix as 6th for job loss. There is at least a three year recovery planning assumption and a possibility of more Federal dollars allocated in mid-term 2010 due to congressional elections. In the next few months we need to focus on preparing for recovery planning by gathering intelligence and researching what jobs will be and when they will start to pick up. One suggestion is to do our own survey possibly with working with SHRM to distribute a survey to HR specialists to help us gather information we need for future planning.

Patrick also share that we have already gone through our stimulus training dollars of \$1.5 million dollars. We are trying to stretch the remaining funds at this time but are hoping to receive some grant resources to help us with more dollars for training. At this time we are reviewing files for most in need to assist them with training dollars and helping them to find other resources such as PELL grants. We have been talking to the Regional Office in San Francisco to prep ourselves to write a National Emergency Grant after the first of the year. This will be the only way we will be able to sustain our ability to provide training opportunities for people that are seeking them.

9. Call to the Public

There were no comments from the public.

10. Adjournment

Neil Alexander adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.