

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Maricopa County Security Building
234 North Central, 3rd Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Minutes
October 27, 2010**

I. Call to Order

Chair Neil Alexander called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Quorum

Present	Excused/Absent	Staff/Guests
Neil Alexander	Ben Serio	Patrick Burkhart
Tony Maldonado		Kristen Merser
Rick McCartney		Dawn Zimmer

III. Approval of Minutes—Action Item

Tony Maldonado made a motion to approve the minutes from August 26th and June 24th. Rick McCartney seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

IV. Assistant Director’s Report – Action Items

• **Board Recertification**

Patrick presented the recertification package that will be submitted to the full board for approval. He explained that recertification is a bi-annual compliance requirement. MWC needs two Economic Development representatives to comply with the requirements and Patrick is trying to recruit from GPEC. Patrick indicated that the City of Mesa may be interested and believes he will have a lead on Monday. The Youth Council needs a Housing representative. After approved by the Full Board, it will be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors. Patrick expects that the Governor’s office may issue preliminary approval if the positions are not filled in time. Tony made a motion to recommend the approval of the recertification package to the Full Board. Rick seconded the motion. Motion approved.

• **Ad Hoc Task Force Recommendation**

Patrick recommended an Ad Hoc Task Force group to create the next Two Year Plan. WIA requires the LWIB to work according to sequential two year plans, but the current one has been extended since June due to the ARRA program. The task force would draft the new two year plan and submit it to the state to be included in their federal two year plan. Patrick suggested that the plan go beyond the requirement and engage staff to include strategic and operational planning. The Strategic Planning and Economic Task Force completed much of the essential research which can be updated and rolled into the plan. Patrick anticipates starting in January and finishing in April. He seeks partner and Board feedback and would like to include MOU and resource sharing to establish a common direction. He emphasized MWC’s position as a system, not just a county, and would like to create an all-inclusive plan of action. Patrick asked for a recommendation to the full board. Members agreed.

The members discussed that the Advocacy Task Force still has strong private sector participation and has changed to bi-monthly meetings. Neil suggested using creative strategies to partner with the business community and business service goals. Rick said that he may be interested in joining Advocacy if it is back to bi-monthly or quarterly. Neil suggested a formal announcement of the continuation.

- ***MWC Board Meeting Preview***

Patrick shared the proposed Full Board Meeting PowerPoint with the group. The Arizona Commerce Authority will be presenting at the meeting to discuss a possible partnership with the Bank of America. Bank of America approached the Governor's office recently proposing the expansion of a professional career center model the Bank had used in their headquarter city of Charlotte, North Carolina. The model provides job seeker services to mid-level managers and above with salary histories in excess of \$50,000 per year. The Bank created the model in Charlotte after finding that the local WIA counterpart was operating in facilities provided by the state in undesirable locations.

The Commerce Authority has been tasked to work on a possible partnership with MWC and PWC. They presented to the Phoenix Workforce Board last month and will present at the MWC Full Board meeting tomorrow. The executive committee discussed that WIA partners need to cater to a broader audience, not so specific. Patrick said that Bank of America would likely be using the facility to screen their own talent in addition to providing services to job seekers. The members expressed concern about having what appeared to be a two-tier system with one resource for professionals, another for "the rest," with a possible loss of clients to MWC. They discussed that the MWC facilities are nice and have a wide range of talent. The group discussed how they could work with Bank of America to build a mutually beneficial partnership with a measure of evaluation and metrics for referrals. They agreed that there is credibility using professional career center to market to businesses. Patrick would like the plan structured to engage a partnership with MWC in the creation stages, rather than a plan being imposed on the centers. Patrick and Cynthia will work together to collaborate a proposal. Patrick emphasized that if it has a WIA label, they must welcome all career seekers and not exclude anyone. The group discussed that the Bank may want to explore the possibility of renting space within the centers rather than leasing their own.

Patrick stated that 40% of people in Arizona over the age of 25 have a high school degree or less. He discussed his idea to transform business relations with the community college districts by providing an online learning product to disadvantaged and low income clients. Clients would be provided with online curriculum with the ability to earn certificates at a cost of \$200 to \$250 each. Patrick compared this cost to the \$4,000 currently paid per client adding that a \$1 million grant currently helps 250 people where as the online learning product would help 5,000. He added that the programs will offer vocational certificates for post high school education. Patrick referred to MIT's website which offers their entire curriculum for free, minus the MIT degree. Patrick is engaging partners in the program and working on a pilot for 4 or 5 programs. He will pursue start-up funding from the Department of Labor and the Gates' Foundation. As the program grows, the community colleges will have the ability to package and sell the program if they desire. Patrick wants to talk formally in January. Partners include Gateway Community College, Rio Salado, New Leaf, Buckeye Outreach Social Services, AWEE, and the Department of Corrections. Without inmate access to the internet, the Department of Corrections would be provided the curriculum on DVD so ex-offenders are prepared with a certificate when they are released.

V. Call to the Public

No public present at the meeting

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.