

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SAN FRANCISCO
Local Workforce Investment Board for the City and County of San Francisco

Minutes of The
November 17, 2023
Meeting of the
Workforce Investment San Francisco (WISF) Board Executive Committee
Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Meeting conducted in hybrid format on Zoom and in-person at
One South Van Ness, Fifth Floor, Room 5080
San Francisco, CA 94103

WISF Executive Committee Members Present	Jeanine Cotter, Luminalt Jorge Tapia, EDD Sam Rodriguez, Rodriguez Strategic Partners, LLC
WISF Executive Committee Members Absent	Tony Delorio, Teamsters Local 665 Vikrum Aiyer, Heirloom
Ohlone Land Acknowledgement, Announcements, and Housekeeping <i>(Discussion Item)</i>	Iris Rollins (OEWD) opened the meeting by providing the meeting guidelines. Jeanine Cotter, WISF Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.
Roll Call <i>(Discussion Item)</i>	
Chair's Welcome <i>(Discussion item)</i>	Chair Cotter welcomed the members of the Executive Committee, OEWD staff, and the public.
Adoption of Agenda <i>(Action Item)</i>	Chair Cotter called for discussion on the agenda. Seeing none, Chair Cotter called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Member Tapia made the motion and Member Rodriguez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes from the August 18, 2023 Meeting <i>(Action Item)</i>	Chair Cotter called for discussion on the minutes. Seeing none, Chair Cotter called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Member Rodriguez made the motion and Member Tapia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Board Vice-Chair Election	Chair Cotter referred members of the Board and public to the WISF bylaws

<p><i>(Action Item)</i></p>	<p>which outline the process for selection of the Board Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Member Tapia nominated Member Rodriguez for the position of Vice-Chair. Member Rodriguez accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Member Rodriguez stated that it would be an honor to hold this position and support the work of the WISF and OEWD.</p> <p>Member Tapia motioned to elect Member Rodriguez to the position of Vice-Chair. Chair Cotter seconded the motion.</p> <p>Motion unanimously carried.</p>
<p>Workforce Director's Report <i>(Discussion Item)</i></p>	<p>Chair Cotter introduced Chad Houston, Director of Workforce Strategy to provide updates to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Director Houston presented the economic indicators for September 2023 from the California Employment Development Department. He reviewed the trends in the unemployment rate since January 2020. In looking at unemployment since December 2019 before the pandemic, he noted the continual gains in employment of the Hospitality sector since the pandemic and anticipates even more gains given the recent APEC Summit. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities has also seen growth, though it has been less linear and more staggered. In future meetings, he will present changes over the past three months to show recent gains.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked about how many WARN notices the department has received in the last quarter. Director Houston replied that since September 1st, the department has received 19 WARN notices representing over 1500 layoffs with the majority of these in the Financial Services and Tech sectors.</p> <p>Member Tapia shared that EDD works closely with OEWD's Rapid Response team to provide these services.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Rodriguez noted that it is not a requirement for laid off workers to register with the State for Rapid Response services, but it is a benefit to the state in that they receive federal resources for this work. Chair Cotter asked if there was a disincentive for employers to access resources. Director Houston responded that no, there is not.</p> <p>Member Tapia noted that in the Tech sector, the turnover from being laid off to starting a new position is often brief resulting in those workers not accessing Rapid Response services.</p>

	<p>Chair Cotter asked about the changes in Mining, Logging, & Construction and would like to see the three-month view given the fluctuation in the past few months. Director Houston stated that he will provide a three-month update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked if the 1,900 workers in Farm-related positions reflected indoor or cannabis farms and asked if the federal government recognized cannabis employment. Member Tapia noted that as a federally funded agency, EDD is not able to use federal training funds to assist cannabis businesses, though employees who are laid off would be eligible for unemployment benefits.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Rodriguez noted that if in 2024 cannabis becomes a Schedule 3 drug, it would become a legal industry.</p> <p>Director Houston highlighted a number of community events for September, which was Workforce Development Month, including visits to the CHEFS program at Episcopal Community Services as well as the Home Health Aide program at Self-Help for the Elderly. Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked if students in the REACH program receive a stipend while in training. OEWD Sector Training Manager Charlie Paisley confirmed that this is not a paid training program. Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked if OEWD could analyze the impact of providing stipends for the students.</p> <p>Chair Cotter asked whether students receive state-recognized certifications. Mr. Paisley acknowledged that students receive portable, state-approved certifications which is helpful in moving up to other positions and certification training.</p> <p>Director Houston then discussed the site visit to Inner City Youth on the five-year anniversary of the agency becoming an OEWD Job Center in partnership with Young Community Developers. Director Houston then discussed the site visit to the RAMP program at the San Francisco Conservation Corps.</p> <p>Director Houston highlighted the current activities of the Dream Keeper Initiative including a convening of staff who work on the initiative and DKI staff attending the 52nd Annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. He highlighted the Universal Basic Income (UBI) component of the DKI-funded Emergency Medical Trainee (City EMT) program. Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked if this income impacted their ability to participate in workforce training. It does not.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked for a presentation on this program at a future meeting.</p>
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	<p>Chair Cotter stated that it would be interesting to learn about the impact on reducing the unemployment rate for Black San Franciscans or if this program is showing a return on investment in increasing the number of Black EMT’s in the industry. Director Houston suggested that this could be a good topic of discussion for a future meeting.</p> <p>Director Houston discussed the partnership with NovaWorks, the workforce board in San Mateo, to provide services at San Francisco International Airport.</p> <p>Director Houston presented information on OEWD's participation with the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) grant, an initiative of the nine Bay Area Counties, which OEWD serves as the fiscal agent on behalf of the Bay Area Good Jobs Partnership for Equity. We have previously received a \$5 million planning grant.</p> <p>Policy & Planning Manager Glenn Eagleson explained that the initiative is a partnership with All Home, which serves as the Regional Convener, managing the programmatic and planning aspects of the grant. We will now be submitting a \$14 million funding application to EDD for the next phase of planning. Funding would be for activity from May 2024 through September 2026. Next year another phase of competitive funding will be available for project implementation.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Rodriguez asked about the goals of the program. Director Houston explained that the overall goal of this funding is creating an economic development system through workforce development across the entire nine county region.</p> <p>Director Houston reviewed the recent Workforce Alignment Committee meeting at which members voted on a universal definition of workforce development that will help to guide is classified as a workforce development program.</p> <p>“Workforce Development” shall mean publicly funded services including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. workforce navigation, employment, training, support, educational support, and youth development services;2. in preparation for employment or placement in post-secondary education;3. which lead to family-sustaining wages, career pathways with an emphasis in high growth sectors or in-demand occupation, quality jobs, and/or union membership; and
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	<p>4. prioritize participants who experience economic vulnerability.</p> <p>In addition, OEWD presented information at that meeting on the results of the 2021-22 workforce inventory, which included an increase across most city partners in the number of clients served. Approximately \$173 million was provided in workforce services with a \$10 million increase in wages and stipends and a \$15 million increase in contracted services.</p> <p>OEWD participated in a hearing with the Immigrant Rights Commission to present what services the department was providing for immigrant workers and jobseekers. OEWD will be applying for a Breaking Barriers grant to support worker co-operatives with two of our existing grantees, MEDA and Dolores Street Community Services.</p> <p>Director Houston highlighted Apprenticeship Week activities and the CityBuild CAPSA graduation.</p>
<p>Future Discussion Items <i>(Discussion Item)</i></p>	<p>Chair Cotter introduced the item and requested discussion on topics of interest to members and for WISF presentations.</p> <p>Member Tapia discussed the California Workforce Association Meeting of the Minds Conference held annually and noted that he had interest in WISF members attending.</p> <p>Member Tapia motioned that WISF Board members be invited to attend the Meeting of the Minds Annual Meeting annually. Motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Rodriguez. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Cotter requested that this be a discussion item at the next WISF Executive Committee Meeting.</p>
<p>Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items <i>(Discussion Item)</i></p>	<p>Chair Cotter opened the meeting for public comment. Ms. Rollins provided instruction on public comment.</p> <p>WISF member Bruce Callender mentioned the shortage of healthcare workers in the Bay Area and noted that San Francisco can be a leader in the Bay Area to fill the available 60,000 openings for health care workers through initiatives such as the City EMT program.</p>
<p>Adjournment <i>(Action Item)</i></p>	<p>Chair Cotter called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Rodriguez made the motion. Member Tapia seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.</p>