

**MEETING RE-CAP  
PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 23, 2010**

The Planning & Oversight Committee of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Solano County met on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534. The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carlos Borba  
Paul Castro  
Frank Crim  
George Dudikoff  
Fadi Halabi

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Mike Ammann  
Bob Brewer  
Patrick Duterte  
Lou Franchimon  
Debby Fries  
Lorenda Sanchez  
Sue Vaccaro

**STAFF PRESENT**

Marion Aiken, Workforce Services Manager  
Suzanne Blakely, Contracts/Grants Specialist  
Robert Bloom, Executive Director  
Gene Ibe, Planning/Human Resources Coordinator  
Cheryl Joseph, Business/Employment Services Manager  
Tamara Moon, Corporate/Board Liaison

**I. Welcome/Convening**

Committee Chair, Fadi Halabi, welcomed all members. Mr. Bloom introduced Ms. Gene Ibe, Planning/Human Resources Coordinator, and Ms. Suzanne Blakely, Contracts/Grants Specialist.

**II. Update on ARRA Economic Stimulus Efforts**

**A. Status on Program Efforts**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom highlighted the following ways that WIB has used the Economic Stimulus money:

- ▶ Expanded training opportunities for the unemployed clients in the Adult and Dislocated Workers Programs. Very few slots are open for enrollment.
- ▶ Hired additional Navigators for the One-Stop Career Centers.
- ▶ Rented additional space.
- ▶ Increased the number of workshops offered in the One-Stop Career Centers including general workshops, skill specific training, and career specific training. A total of 349 people have attended workshops in Fairfield and Vallejo has had 215 attendees.
- ▶ Lastly, the 2009 Summer Youth Work Experience Program was very successful.

**B. Utilization of Funds**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom reported that even with the pressure to spend quickly, an exemplary job was done utilizing the ARRA funds. Mr. Bloom expressed confidence that everything WIB staff has done with the funding is justifiable and legitimate. WIB has

every dollar committed. In fact, WIB is tight on a few line items due to the economy and higher demand in supportive services.

### **C. Carry-over into 2010-11**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom reported that the only carry-over we might have is the reserve that was planned for back in September 2009, when the Board approved a revised budget for the agency which included a 7% reserve across all programs.

## **III. Update on New Federal “Jobs Bill” (i.e. further Economic Stimulus Efforts)**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom reported that several attempts have been made by Congress to pass what is being called a “Jobs Bill”. The House passed its version in December and the Senate has yet to pass its version.

To summarize, the two bills are very different and are outlined as follows:

The House bill passed in December 2009 for \$150 billion with the following seven elements:

- ▶ Some of the money to be used to save and create education jobs.
- ▶ To expand unemployment benefits.
- ▶ To expand COBRA benefit coverage.
- ▶ To fund AmeriCorp and the National Service Trust.
- ▶ \$500 million to be used for Summer Youth Employment Programs.
- ▶ To fund a college Work Study Program.
- ▶ To fund job training in high growth emerging energy sectors including healthcare and green industries.

The Senate is looking at a \$15 billion project and has the following four elements:

- ▶ To exempt employers from Social Security payroll taxes on new-hires who are unemployed.
- ▶ To fund highway and transit programs.
- ▶ To extend a tax break for businesses who spend money on Capital Investment.
- ▶ To expand the use of Build America Bonds Program.

Mr. Bloom pointed out that there is nothing in the Senate’s version for a Summer Youth Program and that with huge differences, it will be interesting to see how the House and Senate work things out to come up with a decent Jobs Bill. It seems like this Jobs Bill has more to do with tax benefits and tax credits for business and may not represent any funding for the WIB systems. Mr. Bloom stated that he is not planning on any additional Summer Youth funding or any additional Economic Stimulus money coming to this Agency.

## **IV. Expansion of Offender/Ex-offender Programs**

### **A. New Start (Increments 1 and 2)**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom reported that WIB has received additional funding opportunities to serve offenders/ex-offenders. WIB’s first increment of funding was approximately \$60,000 under the Governor’s New Start Program, to serve the ex-offender/parolee population. Mr. Bloom reminded members that Jesse Stewart has been WIB’s liaison out in the community and the Parole Department. Mr. Stewart also presents at the PACT meetings which are held here at the One-Stop.

Staff has been notified that WIB will receive a second increment of \$112,000. This money will allow WIB to expand the time Mr. Stewart is available and will allow WIB to enroll 8-22 ex-offenders in some more intensive retraining activities.

**B. Pre-release Program**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom reported that the Solano County WIB has been contacted by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to serve as the second demonstration site with a \$280,000 budget to have two Workshop Instructors physically stationed at the Vacaville Prison four days per week offering classes to prepare prisoners pre-release for job search. These Instructors would give general job search skills presentations since many of these prisoners will be released to communities outside of Solano County.

A new job description is being created which will clearly describe that the job will be located in the Vacaville Prison.

**V. Preliminary Plans: 2010 Summer Youth Program**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom announced that WIB staff has decided to run a Summer 2010 Youth Work Experience Program. Staff will begin a marketing campaign in the near future and coordinate efforts with the worksites. The worksite agreements (which will be referred to as “Training Agreements” are in the process of being revised/updated and will be good for five years.

This year, all youth will have 8 weeks of employment and will work 20 hours per week. The program will serve approximately 240 youth.

**VI. Status on Clean Energy Workforce Training Program Grant**

**Discussion:** The Northbay Employment Connection group received a \$1 million grant for one of the Governor’s energy initiative programs called the California Clean Energy Workforce Training Program (CCEWTP). Solano County has received \$225,000 to serve 75 enrollments. A Request For Proposal was put out to training schools to provide unemployed/underemployed construction workers quick, short-term training in green building codes and other specialized areas. WIB has delayed starting the program because ten proposals came back very expensive. Staff was very surprised at the price being asked for these short-term trainings. Since their training is free, PG&E has been solicited for training opportunities.

WIB will be approaching the construction trades unions first to see if they have unemployed workers who would like to upgrade their green skills making them more employable.

Marketing material will go out soon.

**VII. Status on “VetLink” Project**

**Discussion:** The first year funding of \$500,000 ended in December 2009. WIB is now in line to receive the second increment of \$500,000. The funding was supposed to be received in January 2010. WIB has not received official notice/approval yet; however, staff has been asked to submit the budget and participant plan as though the second increment of funding is going to be received to serve 60 recently separated vets.

## **VIII. New Program Initiatives**

### **A. Elevate America**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom reported that Microsoft is approaching 7-8 states with free training for people to learn Microsoft applications. They will be issuing 176,000 certificates in California and asking local One-Stops to participate. Approximately 1,700 will be issued in Solano County.

### **B. NUMMI/Suppliers Project**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bloom announced that Solano WIB has been asked to help with the NUMMI closure in Fremont involving 4,700 workers and approximately 10,000 suppliers. WIB has agreed to service 40 workers and 40 suppliers. There are 57 NUMMI employees and an uncertain number of suppliers living in Solano County. Staff is currently in the process of trying to figure out what the budget might look like. Also, NUMMI clients will not automatically jump to the head of the line with only 20 enrollment slots open at this time. WIB cannot promise assistance if there is no funding available to help.

### **C. Foster Youth Services**

**Discussion:** WIB staff is following up in good faith with the Connected by 25 group on ways that they can contribute. Marion Aiken has attended Employment Committee meetings of the taskforce and WIB has offered some Workshop Instructors to participate in the upcoming "Job City" event.

### **D. Regional Labor Market Information Project**

**Discussion:** The Northbay Employment Connection group is taking a look to determine if they might take some remaining Economic Stimulus money to reactivate a regional labor market study similar to something done six years ago with a special grant at the time. The funds would be used to have a survey conducted regarding what are the "hot" occupations across our four North Bay Counties. Then an analysis of job growth, employment opportunities, and earnings capabilities for those occupations would be put together. Mr. Bloom welcomes the opportunity, but is not sure if the funding is available to do this. He will report further if staff gets started on this project.

## **IX. President's Report**

Mr. Bloom had nothing further to report.

## **X. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Planning and Oversight Committee of the Workforce Investment Board of Solano County is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 27, 2010 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **WIB offices**, 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534.