



# Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

## Minutes

**Friday • February 20, 2009 • 8:30 am – 10:30 am  
Humboldt County Office of Education • Sequoia Room  
901 Myrtle Avenue • Eureka, CA**

**Members Present:** Greg Aslanian, Terry Coltra, Janet DePace, Maura Eastman, Ben Fewell, Ahn Fielding, Carol Hill, Michael Kraft, Bob Laffranchi, Beverly M. Lewis, Mark Lovelace, Val Martinez, Libby Maynard, Jeff Nelson, Tina Nerat, Bryan Plumley, Cedar Reuben, Bob Sampson, Liana Simpson, Sallie Speaker and Alex Stillman

**Members Absent:** Emilia Bartolomeu, Helen Callahan, Joe Davey, Maggie Gainer, Evelyn Giddings, Linda Grimm, Barbara Groom, Randy Hansen, Mariann Hassler, David Perry, Jon Sapper and James Smith

**Others Present:** Tina Tredt, Peter Fruegen, Clif Clendenen, Virginia Fisher, Connie Lorenzo, Gerry Saner, and Donna Wheeler

### 1. OPENING:

- 1.1 Call to Order: Chair Cedar Reuben called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- 1.2 Self-introductions of WIB members, staff and public present: Introductions were made around the table.
- 1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda: Discussion of the nomination process

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Northcoast Clinics Network-awarded grant to help support training of health professionals, students, health practitioners, dental care and various other areas of need. If you'd like further information please call Tina Tweed at 444-6226 ex 2, or contact her at [tina@northcoastclinics.org](mailto:tina@northcoastclinics.org).

### 3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS:

Nominations Committee – seeking volunteers to join the committee; putting together slate for open positions then putting forward. Libby Maynard has volunteered for the committee as well as Alex Stillman. Please contact a member of the committee if you would like to nominate anyone for an open position.

- 3.1 Consent Agenda: **Motion** made by Libby Maynard to approve the December 12<sup>th</sup> minutes, second by Tina Nerat, so carried.
- 3.2 Community-Based Job Training Grant - We received a 2.5 million dollar grant from the Department of Labor. Targets of Opportunity is being applied to every course at CR. *Are all of the dollars targeted for training? Any other uses?* The college is going to expand the capacity to train as well as bring in new programs. CR gets paid by the state a year after the course is delivered; very difficult to get started. *Are there any unique measurement tools to see how well this is going?* Department of Labor's program helps capture data; it's very easy to work with. We will be tracking participants as well as graduates and those who become employed in that profession. Do we have particular courses of study? There will be study in Diversified Healthcare, Medical Assisting will be expanding. Also there will be new courses offered in paramedic training and physical therapy. There is an expectation

of a 25% increase in the need for Physical Therapists within the next few years. We did receive a grant proposal for additional nurse's training for graduates from College of the Redwoods, Humboldt State University and Chico State. Also, the simulator course being offered at CR will be up and running soon. This grant will launch CR into distance learning as well where courses can be done on-line. Hopefully CalWorks students will be prioritized with this new certification. CalWorks has moved to the CR downtown site so it can be more integrated with the regular CR students. Dr. Marsee would like to expand the Job Market to be available from the CR campus. In March we're going to the Board of Supervisors to give a brief report on where we are with the Targets of Opportunity and also accepting the grant from the Department of Labor. Any member of this board is welcome to come to that meeting and give the BOS any positive feedback they have received. Economic Stimulus Package – we'll see substantial funding coming through, could double the size of our youth program this summer. We've built a structure that is able and ready to have funding begin.

- 3.3 Alternative Fiber Optic down Highway 299 - Tina Nerat gave a quick report and a proposal to put in fiber optic along Highway 299. Today at the Public Utilities Commission the proposal is up for review; forty percent of the \$20,000,000.00 hopefully will be approved. Broadband Associates will be providing the fiber optics; Velocity Technology will be providing last mile service. The project will go from Eureka-Arcata area to the Interstate 5 Internet backbone. If anyone knows of places that have funds available please let Tina know in case the proposal does not pass today. CDBG is also providing funds. Reports will be out in March to the Board of Supervisors. Some of the challenges are one year for construction. CQUA and CalTrans could be a hitch. CalTrans hasn't used the process before that is being employed. Other challenges; getting across the river. National Parks Service is already a huge problem; they want to take down the towers from Shasta County. AT&T as well as Edge Wireless will need to sign up for this as redundant service. Wholesale side is what will be subsidizing this in the long term. A condition of the grant was to provide business and residential service down the last mile. *How does this wireless piece fit?* It comes off the 299 backbone. There are 19 communities that have no service as this point in time. *In terms of jobs, do you think that companies might be more apt to bring business here because of the alternate capability?* That plus having a diverse path should make local companies more competitive; AT&T prices will go down. *Does AT&T have to sign on here?* Yes; they don't want to build or spend the money. They're waiting to see what is put in. This is creating the physical portion, carriers will pick up the service. AT&T has to provide a minimum of up time. This is a joint Community Development grant. We have the capacity to handle the grant so Trinity County came into it with us. There will be two reports, one for wireless and one for fiber. *How does this tie in with the project on Highway 36?* It doesn't. Crescent City to Eureka path will probably be the next project. The main purpose here is to service unserviceable areas.
- 3.4 STAA truck access at Richardson Grove – This has been constraining us for a very long time. Most shippers don't know the constraint is here; there is a lack of access for STAA trucks. Technically we have access but CHP won't allow; there are no exemptions any more. CalTrans came up with new technology that will figure out how to make minor adjustments to change the way the curves are so the trucks can stay in their lanes; will not remove any old growth. The largest tree to be removed is 12 inches round. Other diverse groups of trees will be removed. Final comments are due by the end of the month. Project should be complete by 2010. Recently there have been some negative newsletters published; letters coming from opposition are not coming from facts. Most substantial comments are about a bike path; there will be one put in through the park. There are cultural resource issues that have not been mapped. No deal breaking issues yet. People don't trust CalTrans to do the right thing. CQUA is not for public opinion. All roadwork around the roots of the trees will be done by hand. Short Sea Shipping may be another means to get things in and out of the county. Looking at 200 containers per month

going out of the area. Short Sea Shipping is not all about here but about the whole west coast.

- 4. PRESENTATION:** Given by JoAnn Sapper, Youth Program Operator. Last Fall she organized an Employer Advisory group to connect her program to the Target of Opportunity. She asked people from the 6 target areas plus 3 additional people from her area to be part of this group. Jacqueline did her Targets presentation, what needs to happen in our region. What she hears most is that we need to educate the educators. Information needs to get out to the youth. In addition she went to the Fortuna Administrators, set up meetings, did a presentation to the High Board on changing demographics in our area and how that has changed over the last 15 years. In December she presented to the high school staff that were very attentive and engaged; some teachers requested presentation in their classrooms. Jose did employer expectation workshops. In addition 8 employers from the area spent a whole day presenting needs in their businesses. JoAnn wants to put together a plan to set up a Digital Pathways program in Fortuna as well as a video lab. There is a large percentage of education that is focused around getting to college; people need training in the service areas as well. Dennis Mullins did a presentation; feedback was Wow, this is great information, had no idea this was happening. Should this information get out to the community? Yes; more Chambers, school boards, churches, public meetings. Insure that the materials and information delivered can be gotten out to the targeted audience. Employers may need to adapt to the younger generation and how they function. It's impressive the work that JoAnn has done, good to hear what's going on out there on the front line. Encouraged with the outreach to students; talking with real people in the real world. Getting this information to a senior in high school is probably too late; may need to address 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Good to get this out to first year college students as well. *Any plans about sharing this practice with other school districts in our community?* It was put out there but JoAnn hasn't gotten any feedback yet.
- 5. REPORTS:** We received \$500,000.00 for Dislocated Workers Assistance.
- 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** JoAnn Sapper put out an invitation to all board members for the Youth program Operators breakfast in April. Connie Lor4enzo was with SBDC and is now the new Job Market Manager.
- 7. CLOSING:** Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.