



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

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Chair of the Board, Randall Hansen

Interim Executive Director, Jacqueline Debets

DATE: August 27, 2004

TO: All News Media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

FOR MORE • Jacqueline Debets, 445-7747

INFORMATION: Executive Director, Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

WIB Discusses Job Trends in CA and Humboldt County Policy Implications for the Investment of Public Funds

This Friday, the Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board (HC-WIB) will receive a presentation on job trends in CA and Humboldt County and discuss where public funds may be invested to bring the best jobs to Humboldt County.

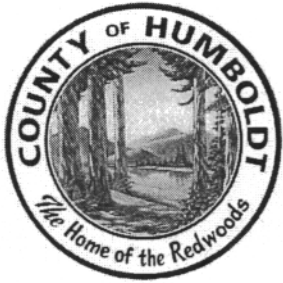
In the 1990's, California experienced unprecedented growth in both high wage jobs and low wage jobs, but very little growth in middle wage jobs. California also pays out an estimated \$1 billion annually in safety net benefits (like health care, earned income tax credit, etc.) to full-time working families, and most of this low-wage workforce is employed in the Retail industry. After a presentation on the data, the WIB will discuss how these trends affect Humboldt County and how we can invest public dollars to attract the higher and middle-income jobs. This presentation and discussion will be the first in a series on the topic.

Much of the data presented debunks commonly discussed myths about Humboldt County losing youth, increasing retirees and having lost it's industrial base in Forest Products and other economic drivers. "The fact is timber is not "gone". It's still 36% of our base economy and 12% of our total economy. The data shows we have fairly normal levels of youth and older folks, in fact a smaller share of retired age people compared to other rural counties," noted Jacqueline Debets, WIB Executive Director, who undertook the research on behalf of the Board. "When you compare Humboldt County to other rural counties with greater transportation advantages, we're doing well in a challenging national and state economy."

In addition to jobs trends, data presented will cover population and demographics, median income, educational attainment, homeownership, and population on public assistance. Humboldt County will be compared to the US, CA, Del Norte, Mendocino and Butte counties in CA and Jackson county in Oregon.

The HC-Workforce Investment Board meeting begins at 8:30am at the Humboldt County Office of Education Annex. The public is invited to attend and participate in discussions. As a board mandated by the Workforce Investment Act and an appointed commission of the Board of Supervisors, the HC-WIB includes local leaders from business, education, economic development, labor and workforce training groups, with the majority representing private sector employers. The HC-WIB brings to light important employer issues, recommends policy and systems for delivering services to employers and employees.

The media is invited to attend. The agenda for the meeting is included for your reference.



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

MEETING AGENDA

Friday, August 27, 2004, 8:30 am – 10:30 am

Humboldt County Office of Education • Annex Conference Room
901 Myrtle Avenue • Eureka, CA

Mission Statement: The Workforce Investment Board brings together resources to meet employer and employee needs to advance the prosperity of our communities.

A. DESIRED MEETING OUTCOMES

1. Having received public comment.
2. Clarity on the desired outcomes of research on trends in the economy and labor market and their implications for the investment of public funds.
3. Layout of meeting presentations through December.
4. Having received a presentation on the economy and labor market.
5. Having discussed the implications of information presented and clarified requests for follow up research.
6. Approved consent agenda (see C. Supplemental Information to the Agenda).
7. Having received information about the Living In a Networked World and invitation to participate.
8. Having asked answers regarding reports and received answers.
9. Having provided an opportunity for members to make announcements.

B. PROPOSED AGENDA

1. OPENING

- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Self-introductions of WIB members, staff and public present
- 1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. PRESENTATIONS (~45 minutes)

- 3.1 Desired outcomes and scope of research into trends in economy and labor market
- 3.2 Humboldt County and CA labor market trends, forces, their implications and the role of the WIB

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION (~20 minutes)

- 4.1 Small Group discussion of information presented and areas for follow up

BREAK (~5 minutes, ~9:45 am)

- 4.2 Consent Agenda (~2 minutes)
- 4.1 Change to Bylaws (See WIB Report #49; 5 minutes)

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 5.1 Living in a Networked World (Tina Nerat ~5 minutes)

6. REPORTS (written in supplemental information)

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS (~5 minutes)

8. CLOSING (at 10:30am)