

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff & Guests
Dr. Kim Armstrong	Regina Cash	Nick Schultz
Adey Tesfaye	Sandra Brizuela	Alisa Munoz
Xochitl Cobarrubias	Ken Gomez	Eli Romero
Tommy Faavae	Larry Rice	Dawn Swann
Melissa Infusino	Weston Labar	Julia Olson
Simon Kim	Peter Santillan	Karla Corona
	Graham Scott	Tisha Kennedy
		Sokko Kong
		Peter Phou

Pacific Gateway Workforce Development Board (PGWDB) convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at Pacific Gateway/The WorkPlace, located at 4811 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815.

I. Call to Order

Chair Dr. Kim Armstrong called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM (PST)

No roll call was taken, sign-in sheet was provided with attendees. Quorum not met; therefore, no votes or action items can be taken.

II. Public Comment

No public comments

III. Minutes

As there was not a quorum present, voting on approval of the minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting, August 16, 2022.

IV. BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS

Nominating Committee for Board Chair and Vice Chair. Per Pacific Gateway Workforce Development Bylaws, the Board selects a Chair and Vice Chair biennially. Pacific Gateway will be requesting nominations from the Board and will convene the Nominations Committee. Volunteers were requested to serve on the committee; Xochitl Cobbarruvas and Adey Tesfaye volunteered. Additional volunteers are welcome. Pacific Gateway staff will reach out to the committee once nominations are received.

Comments: No additional comments

V. LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

A. Pacific Gateway Budget

Action Item – Quorum not met; therefore, no votes or action items can be taken.

B. Pacific Gateway Policies

Action Item – Quorum not met; therefore, no votes or action items can be taken.

C. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

Presenter – Alisa Munoz: Under WIOA, Pacific Gateway is required to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with our mandated partners. The current MOU is set to expire June 30, 2022, which is currently in the process of being updated. In April 2022, Pacific Gateway met with mandated partners to go over the MOU process and discuss shared costs and services. While the MOU is due June 30, 2022, Pacific Gateway did receive an extension from the State to submit the MOU on October 31, 2022. This extension will allow Pacific Gateway to finalize all negotiations and obtain all the necessary signatures from mandated partners.

Questions/Comments

None

D. Performance Outcomes and Working Group Update

Presenter – Dawn Swann: WorkPlace (Long Beach) PY 20-21 Final State Performance Outcomes (see reports provided). The WIOA Adult grants did a great job by meeting eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) negotiated goals. The Youth grants did exceptionally well by not only meeting, but exceeding all negotiated goals. For Adult/Dislocated Worker, Pacific Gateway is close to exceeding employment 4th quarter goals (high 90th percentile). Due to the worldwide pandemic, employment rates were affected. The employment rate 2nd quarter is in the 70th percentile range; we would like to see those numbers increase. Pacific Gateway staff will be taking a deeper dive into analyzing the data and characteristics of those clients when time permits with the Work Group. Pacific Gateway no longer is held accountable for Performance Outcomes, but now Performance Scores.

WorkPlace PY 20-21 Final Individual Indicator Performance Score (see reports provided). Performance Outcomes are now gauged by Performance Scores, which as defined under WIOA Section 116(b), “the State is required to assess performance outcomes at the end of each program year (PY). Yearly data from Local Areas’ annual reports will be examined using the *Statistical Adjustment Model (SAM)* to determine if negotiated performance goals were achieved. A Local Area’s performance outcome is essential in determining its continued designation and whether sanctions should be applied for nonperformance.” On a local level, a Pre-Target from the State at the beginning of the program and Post-Target at the end of the program based on clients served. Pacific Gateway takes those two targets and get the difference; the negotiated goal is then adjusted based upon that difference. The new model takes your actual outcome and compares to your adjusted goal. Negotiated goal is adjusted annually and can increase or decrease. All of this is in transition and only held accountable to 50%.

Comments:

Adey Tesfaye: Why would you want to do more than your negotiated goal; is there a benefit for actual performance versus negotiated goal?

Dawn Swann: What the State is trying to do, at least DOL perspective is to look at who you serve and the economic conditions. Whether your goal increases or decreases, all that plays into that model. There are 52 data elements feed into whether your goal increase or decrease. How they chose how measurements increase or decrease is interesting. We always want to exceed or meet negotiated goals. At the State level, if we do not meet the

negotiated score, we would have to meet the performance score, not our negotiated level.

Nick Schultz: I have a couple things to add. Let us start with the scores, they are phenomenal, I believe. When you think about Dislocated Workers and employment 2nd quarter after exit and all the enhanced unemployment benefits that were available at this time during the pandemic, there wasn't a huge incentive to go immediately back to the workforce. People could take some time, reskill further and do other things. I think that score is partially indicative of that and I am hopeful that is the guidance that we gave some people to have some transferable skills they could build on to have a more stable pathway. The second thing is, the "SAM" concerns me with its 52 [data] elements rather than the linear progression that was previously used when they calculated performance. The biggest issue I have is, we serve who comes in the door or identified in the community and are in need. We are going to continue to do that; that is what we have done and been successful. The problem with that model is all those 52 characteristics are statewide characteristics and they do not account the specifics of our populations/demographic in Long Beach. So, we do not know until we get into the calculations cycle, what those coefficients are going to do to our performance numbers. We will never be able to tell because they are not built on the population we serve. I am confident we will come out on top and continue to serve who we need to serve, because of our staffing.

Tommy Faavae: Let's just say we do not meet the 50% threshold, with all of these indicators; do we have another shot to reengage on the grant?

Dawn Swann: The first year, the first two measures, we can revisit, the second year gets a little more involved. The third year that you have not met the same measures, year after year, there could be repercussions. We have plenty of time to correct. Overall, I don't see us having any major issues. Now when we get to the 90%, that will be interesting; I can't wait to see the actual data from "SAM."

VI. INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

A. Long Beach Community Job Fair

Presenter – Karla Corona: Introduction of Business Engagement Team: Karla Corona – Business Engagement Manager, Peter Phou – leads business engagement efforts within aerospace, manufacturing, IT and hospitality sectors, Tisha Kennedy – transportation, distribution, and logistics sector,

Sokko Kong – business development contracts coordinator, and Jennifer Angeles-Weyh – healthcare sector lead and rapid response.

The Long Beach Community Job Fair was organized and hosted by Pacific Gateway, in partnership with California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach City College, State of California (EDD), Department of Social Services, and United American Indian Involvement, on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at the Long Beach Convention Center. The largest job fair hosted by Pacific Gateway in Southern California and well attended event. Candidates were interviewed by employers, including Starbucks who interviewed over 100 candidates in any available space. Other employers in attendance were Hotel Mya, Virgin Orbit; a total of 165 employers in attendance from various industries. All participants were required to pre-register to participate and attend event, registration was closed with a total of 4,365 registered. A documented 2,039 attended the event which was a great turn out. Pacific Gateway is following up with employers for employment outcomes. As of today, Ulta Beauty has hired 14 individuals, and Starbucks has hired 38 baristas, and 2 shift supervisors. Several media outlets covered the event, such as ABC-7 and Telemundo.

Comments:

Kim Armstrong: Boeing had a representative and in a regional meeting and they spoke about how great the turnout, leads, and press coverage.

Simon Kim: Suggested tracking the number of college graduates who attend future job fairs.

Melissa Infusino – Commended the team for the tremendous showing of employers and a well organized job fair.

Karla Corona: We want to thank all the Board members and community partners for participating and promoting the event.

B. Business Engagement Efforts

Presenter – Nick Schultz: There has been a lot effort from the team on both recruitment and retention of businesses. We have been assisting various companies with their footprints (locally). You can see (PowerPoint slide) we have three “confidential” companies that we are working through expansion or site location. Companies that can be discussed are, Relativity Space, ABL Space Systems, Odys Aviation, and JetZero. This update is to give an idea of

who we are working with and the assistance we are providing. I do have to point out Relativity Space, their commitment to diversity is second to none. What we have to start thinking about as a Board and on a local level is the software and manufacturing that has applicability across all sectors. That technology has mass appeal to the workforce.

Comments:

Melissa Infusino – It great to see all these employers coming to Long Beach and all the different employment opportunities they are bringing.

VII. CAREER SERVICES

A. Adult Services – Project HOME Program Overview

Presenter – Eli Romero: Pacific Gateway has been coordinating Project HOME for two years. Project HOME is a workforce development program that is designed to connect people who are experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness with paid work experience and training resources in addition to supportive services to supplement services while in our program. Services include, transportation assistance, rental assistance, and clothing vouchers. The report (see report provided – page 2) provides one success story which highlights a participant and organization that is new to Long Beach, which is Family Promise of the South Bay. The organization connects people with housing services, also provide trauma informed care, case management, and services to people in the community. We would like to thank Julia and Sokko on their work they have done with the HOME project. We will report new funding at a future date, but now we are expecting \$240,000 to continue to do this work in collaboration with the County [LA].

Comments:

Julia Olson: The HOME goal for this current year was to enroll 32 participants. Today with two days left in the program year, we do have 39 participants. Of those 39, not everyone was interested or ready for the work experience portion, some people will carry over to the next program year. Of that we had 24 participants participate in the work experience on some level. Some did a few hours and transitioned to employment, while others did the full 200 hours. Of those 22—24 have received full-time employment.

Nick Schultz: Of the seven boards in LA County, we [Pacific Gateway], have the highest performance.

Nick Schultz: The evolution of all of this, Willow Springs Park, the first pilot was a first cohort of homeless women in Willow Springs, who worked to rehab the park with the Office of Sustainability. This is how the program has progressed.

Eli Romero: With ongoing urban displacement being a hot topic, an ever-growing problem. Fortunately, the diversity of our population we service, is representative of who we serve, young, older, and homeless. We do not discriminate.

B. Youth Services - Long Beach Youth Climate Corps Overview

Presenter – Eli Romero: The City of Long Beach is the seventh largest city in the State as we receive \$6.3 million in the development and creation of the LB Youth Climate Corps. This is funded through the State of California Governor’s office, through their Youth Jobs Program. This money is identified and will be used to provide employment opportunities to youth between the ages of 16 – 30, that live in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, face higher levels of food insecurity and challenges related to climate change. Through this project, we hope to serve 380 young people over the course of two years. These young people will be served inclusive around 80-90 employers, but of course there will be some overlap between those groups. Training will include, recycling, energy-efficiency planning, policy change, non-profits to create responsible practices, ecosystem restoration, water efficiency practices, green landscaping, and native plants to be more native friendly. The program will generate internships paying \$16-25 per hour, experience-based knowledge will help, and career goals. Pacific Gateways goal is to connect the 380 youth to school or education, or full-time permanent job. All individuals will have access to Pacific Gateway training and can receive certification related to placement. Coordination with other City departments such as Parks and Recreation, Health, Development Services, and Port of Long Beach. In addition to those departments, we are also working with non-profits such as Conservation Corp of Long Beach, who will be a key partner. We have held past sessions at the Billie Jean King Library and Michelle Obama Library. Tomorrow (6/23/22) we will hold a virtual session with 80 youth registered. The response for this program has been very encouraging, with at least 60 youth right now.

Comments:

Nick Schultz – Referrals of nonprofit partners doing climate related work is encouraged and is key to the placement of 380 youth.

C. Youth Services – Space Beach Teacher Externship Program Overview

Presenter – Eli Romero: This program is a part of the larger Space Beach strategy to prepare young people in these fields in occupations that support space launch activities. The larger effort for student engagement is further down the line, that I can update at a later time. As you can imagine, teaching in school students, the key strategy is preparing and including educators with the foundation and knowledge to prepare their students. This upcoming summer, will work with 23 educators across three different Long Beach Unified high schools, Sato Academy, Cabrillo High School, and Jordan CAMS. We are working with those schools (educators and career counselors) in a three-day externship program that will take place August 9th – 11th (2022). The educators have been identified, we have collected their information and background process, which aerospace companies require us to do. During those externships educators will be taken on tours of the sites, matched with respective employers. There will be opportunities to participate in tangible, hands-on activities that will give them the introduction to aerospace launch and manufacturing. There will be some engagement in design training with a future design school (TBD). Also, other activities led by employer partners. The idea is to introduce individuals to the principles of aerospace and broadens the question, “what is your vision for your students?” The goal is for the summer of 2023 to connect some of the young people who are students of theirs to internship at those respective companies.

Comments:

Tommy Faavae: I think it would be a good idea to include CSULB and LBCC in this process as well. When I think about a career—here is where you are in K-12 and here are the working companies. The middle is LBCC and CSULB, one of the workshops for example, could be professors from LBCC or CSULB talking about these are the things you have to have to be an engineer, etc. The middle section is something we can provide and connect.

Eli Romero: That’s something that doesn’t have to exist for just those three days, we can have a workshop during the school year. The focus of the externship is to broaden aerospace beyond engineering.

Adey Tesfaye: Will this be the four high schools or will you expand to more high schools in Long Beach?

Eli Romero: At this point, it is just those three. The aftermath and impacts of the pandemic on student engagement are very real. The partners with the school district believe that these schools have academic pathways that have been able to sustain stronger level of not only student engagement, but stronger industry alignment. We are mindful that's not necessarily something we find as an excuse; we want to reach to a larger audience/student pool.

VIII. GRANTS UPDATE

Presenter - Eli Romero: Since the Board last met, Pacific Gateway has secured a little over \$8 million in new funding. A significant amount of that funding is from the State of California, Governor's office at \$6.3 million to uphold the creation of the LB Youth Climate Corps. Another \$1.6 million from the Conrand N. Hilton Foundation, which a large grant from a private foundation. The Hilton funding will be dedicated to support 160 out-of-school (disconnected youth) activities preparing youth in careers in aerospace. With this funding, a wide network of schools that are specifically mission driven that work with disconnected youth, such as Learn 4 Life, Opportunities for Learning, and colleagues at LB Youth Development. Overall, as a City, we have received a little over \$3 million from Hilton.

Other grants that Pacific Gateway is waiting to hear back are, LA City Youth Source Operator grant, which is \$1.1 million for four years. This is to continue the operation of the Harbor Youth Source Center in San Pedro and surrounding areas for the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Youth@Work. Another grant is the Economic Development Agency (EDA) grants, which are funded through the Presidents Build Back Better funding initiative. Currently in development, an application to support and provide career development services at Carmalitos. The contract is with the LA County Development Authority (LACDA) for \$100,000 per year up to 5 years.

Board Members were asked to refer to their packet for all updates on grants.

IX. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

A. Dr. Kim Armstrong – Board Chair

- Participated in the National Association Workforce Board Conference in Washington, D.C. Very well attended.

- Continually engaged with Nick and team each month via Zoom to ensure to put together meaningful Board meeting. Appreciate staff for all the work to put together meetings. Consistently looking at make-up of Board and looking to seat new members.
 - *Nick – Point of Order:* Right now, we have two business vacant seats that the Mayor (LB) has in mind, that he intends to appoint from the Healthcare sector/Health systems. Will also get someone from Space Launch.
- The need to plan a retreat, which is ongoing and hope to happen late summer or early fall.
- Concerning hybrid work environment; Zoom vs In-Person Board meetings. Allowed to go back to Zoom, next meeting would everyone like to go back to Zoom? Consensus is that Board would like to do Zoom to obtain quorum and complete business of the Board, especially regarding the budget.

B. Nick Schultz - Executive Director

- New staff hired since last Board meeting. Staff is actually down 15% since taking on new investments. While staff is trim, the people who comprise this organization [PG] are dedicated and dynamite. so we make due. We do need to get new hires on board and hopefully in the next few weeks.
- We are expanding economic opportunities and looking forward to a robust and diversified budget in the upcoming year.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kim Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 5:01 PM (PST) without objection.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 (morning session).