

Ricardo Olalde
Chairman

Robert Field
Assistant County Executive Officer, EDA



Felicia Flournoy
WDB Director

Maria Muldrow
CP Manager

Rilla Jacobs
Secretary

Workforce Development Centers of Riverside County
1151 Spruce Street, – Riverside, CA 92507

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MINUTES
April 15, 2009

The Riverside County (County) Workforce Investment Board (WIB) held a general business meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Chairman Ricardo Olalde called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance

Chuck McDaniel	Cindy Delanty	Cindy Roth	Greg Doonan
Jamil Dada	Jeffery Henderickson	Jim King	Laurie McLaughlin
Morris Myers	Paul Jessup	Ricardo Olalde	Robert Frost
Robert Little	Sharon Duffy	Stan Stosel	Susan Loew
Tom Donahue	William Perez	Imran Farooq	

Members Absent

Adan Gomez	Edward Walsh	Iddo Benzeevi	Kathy Barr
Kenneth Clark	Lea Petersen	Lee Haven	Lois Carson
Pam LiCalsi	Raymond Hicks	Sarah Mundy	Shelagh Camak
Vicki Nasman			

Staff

Felicia Flournoy	Maria Muldrow	La Tonya Johnson	Pat Ramos
Wendy Frederick	Martha Delgado		

Guests

Rosa Penalosa	Mary Jo Ramirez	Fernando Alvarado	Florentino Maldonado
Thomas Johnson	Tiffany R. Allen	Luis Aguilar	Lenore De Jesus
William Prouty	Susan Senior	Alicia Diaz	Charles Nava
Charles Bray			

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM #1.1: Approve December 10, 2008, Minutes

Motion: That the WIB Committee approves the December 10, 2008, minutes.

Moved by Jim King, seconded by Robert Frost.

Status: *Approved*

ANNOUNCEMENT: Introduction of Robert Field

Ricardo Olalde announced that with the retirement of Robin Zimpfer, Assistant County Executive Officer of the Economic Development Agency (EDA), the County Board of Supervisors has merged

EDA with Facilities Management (FM) and appointed Robert Field, Director of FM as the new Assistant County Executive Officer. Ricardo stated Robert will give a brief overview of the merger and what it means for the two agencies.

Felicia Flournoy introduced Robert Field, the new Riverside County EDA Assistant Chief Executive Officer. Felicia stated the merger will give us tremendous opportunities as we move forward to create collaborations and to effectively utilize the resources in both organizations as we merge into one entity that will serve County residents.

Robert Field stated he will oversee an organization of over 1,000 employees with an annual budget of roughly \$700 million. We are one of the larger organizations the County has and by combining our two entities we have become a powerful force in economic development. We are looking forward to working with the WIB.

Our agency will be the primary conduit for getting stimulus funding back into the community countywide. We have many exciting projects ready to move pending federal approval. We are anticipating partnering with an array of communities we serve to help shift the economy towards a positive direction as fast as we can. This is a great opportunity and we look forward to the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM #1.2: Member Initiatives

Cindy Roth passed out a flyer for the Small Business Fair. The City of Riverside, Press Enterprise and the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce are putting on a small business fair. We are trying to save jobs and small business is a major contributor in this region. The event will be held May 12, 2009, at the Riverside Convention Center (Center) and will be opened to the public free of charge.

There will be workshops on one side of the center instructing business on how to get on a County bid list to keep contracts in Riverside and how to market their businesses on a limited budget. The other side of the Center will showcase exhibits for business people.

On May 14, 2009, the Good Morning Riverside keynote speaker will be the new California Secretary of Education Glen Thomas based on the ties between education and workforce. This meeting will begin at 7 a.m. the Mission Inn and immediately following his speech, Mr. Thomas will participate in the roundtable discussion on issues we have in our region.

Ricardo stated he is actively involved with the Green Valley Initiative (GVI) as the Workforce Committee Co-chairman which has been organizing for 18 months. We are working in collaboration with San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board to develop green trust training and funding using stimulus dollars. There are stimulus dollars allocated to green technology and we want to capitalize this funding in our region.

PRESENTATION ITEM 2.1: Council for Youth Development Presentation "Our Journey"

Ricardo introduced Rosa Penaloza, Chairman for the Council for Youth Development (CYD), to begin the presentation. Rosa began the presentation by stating the youth are our future. We must continue to provide youth with assistance and resources to help them excel. Our continued investment in today's youth will provide promising opportunities in the future!

The CYD's journey has made us the voice of County youth. The CYD supports five Youth Opportunity Centers of Riverside County (YOCs) by constantly addressing education and workforce development needs, and consistently advocating for funding. Not only does the CYD support the YOCs but our goal is to provide services to all youth serving organizations countywide.

Recently, I visited various communities and organizations to provide presentations and was surprised

to find some of them were unaware of our WIB and CYD. This is an indication that more effort is required in educating our communities and letting them know we are here as a resource and we are here to support them. This is another improvement opportunity the CYD would like to initiate countywide.

The CYD is tied to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) signed in 1998. The YOCs were established in 2000. As an employee of Arbor Education and Training, I have the opportunity to travel nationwide and visit other youth serving communities and organizations. I am pleased to inform you that Riverside County is viewed as one of the leading youth serving locations throughout the United States.

We are one of the few counties with YOCs designed to serve youth only and not combined in a building with adult and other services. I am constantly asked by others how they can establish the same types of centers in their communities. They ask if they can visit the YOCs and duplicate what we have accomplished and my response is always yes.

The other area I want to touch on is our Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) accreditation which began in 2002 with our first YOC certified in 2004. Many locations do not require their YOCs to submit to a CQI accreditation process. This is a continuous cycle of partnering, meetings, evaluations and certification. Riverside does this to ensure that the entities operating the YOCs are providing services at a high level of quality while evaluating the services they render and equipping the youth with the tools they need to become successful in every area of life.

The CQI accreditation process holds the YOC operating entities accountable for the service they provide. Many of the WIB members participate in the accreditation review and can evaluate how the providers are measuring up to the criteria standards. As the deciding board on who will receive future funding you can review the accreditations and know that the funds will be in good standing.

The CYD has strategic goals and accomplishments which are aligned with the WIB strategic goals. CYD evaluated all of its goals and decided which ones had a high need for youth. We brainstormed and identified three goals we wanted to concentrate on:

Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention (YGPI): YGPI is an extreme need in the County. We want to assist youth who have gang affiliations difficulties and create an intervention process. How can we assist youth to get away from gangs or to improve and want to stay away from gangs? We decided that we needed to bridge and identify gaps to provide necessary programs focusing on education, leadership and mentoring within the YGPI. The accomplishments are as follows:

- Provided presentations creating awareness on Gang Intervention & Prevention
 - Operation Phoenix Program of San Bernardino
 - Vision Youth Program, presented and created by Lt. Mike Brownell, Public Information Officer for the California Rehabilitation of Norco, CA
 - Riverside County District Attorney
- Disseminates information to other youth serving organizations

The YGPI workgroup continues to meet and work on leveraging resources. We are exploring funding opportunities and resources to enable us to establish a gang prevention program within Riverside County. We are working with Operation Phoenix to bring resources from the parole or probation office to be onsite at YOCs to provide immediate assistance to youth

Housing: There is a dire need for youth, especially those in the foster care system, who need

housing resources. Our goal was to provide affordable housing opportunities to youth. The accomplishments are as follows:

- Increased number of partners to enhance housing opportunities.
- Explored the option of building five homes, one in each supervisorial district to host and provide housing for youth.
- Acquired ten Section 8 Housing Vouchers for foster care
 - Provided case management counseling, support services and furniture to the recipients of the housing vouchers which are good for one to two years.

At this time, the Housing workgroup is working to acquire 100 vouchers through the Department of Public Social Services to provide more housing opportunities to youth and emancipated foster youth. We are continuously looking at funding opportunities to provide housing for our youth countywide.

Mentoring: Every youth needs to have a positive mentor in their life. Many of the high at-risk youth we work with experience serious dilemmas in their lives where having a positive role model may have helped youth in making better decisions and build their self confidence. The accomplishments are:

- Evaluated existing mentoring resources (County, nation, and statewide)
- Drafted a Mentoring Program Guide
- Identified the available existing technical resources to help guide an organization to create a mentoring program.
- Obtained professional mentoring support

Rosa showed a PowerPoint presentation of the 5 operating YOCs and then turned to presentation over to Mary Jo Ramirez, CYD member.

Mary Jo reminded everyone that when the WIA funding was initiated the vision Riverside County put forward was an innovation of Felicia Flournoy. Ms. Flournoy met with entities across the County and said "Let's do something good, let's do it right and let's concentrate on our youth." Mary Jo thanked Loren Sims and Linda Arnold for their work and commitment to this year's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP).

The YOCs' services are consistent even though the centers are unique to their specific community. There are ten core element services:

1. Tutoring
2. Alternate Education
3. Summer Employment
4. Paid and Unpaid Work Experience
5. Occupational Skills Training
6. Leadership Development
7. Support Services
8. Mentoring
9. Follow up
10. Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling

Each YOC has taken a unique approach to them. Mary Jo presented the artwork the youth created at one of the YOCs. Some of the YOCs use the creativity to work with youth and to build upon their other skills. The Arbor Win YOC uses technology and the OASIS YOC uses work readiness components. Mary Jo introduced YOC youth who attended the WIB meeting and had them speak briefly.

Fernando Alvarado, President of the Youth Council at the OASIS YOC, shared that he is still involved with the OASIS YOC. Fernando stated after graduating from high school he was unable to obtain a job. Fernando visited the OASIS YOC to receive help with creating a resume and learning how and what to do in a job interview. Fernando's OASIS counselor helped him along the way and now Fernando is attending college and is employed. Fernando stated the YOC was a major part of his life that changed him for the better.

Tiffany Allen, Vice President of the Empower Youth YOC, stated she joined the Empower Youth YOC to find a job which was the first thing on her mind, not school. Tiffany found a job and Empower Youth YOC staff consulted with her on what she would like to do with her life. Tiffany shared she is enrolled in college fulltime and seeking employment. Tiffany stated The Empower Youth YOC staff provides help and encourages youth every step of the way and youth never hear negative things only positive feedback. Tiffany conveyed that she is now taking classes to open her own business and thanked the Empower Youth YOC staff for all of their help.

Luis Aguilar, Youth Council Member of the Hemet Empower Youth YOC, shared that he was a dropout and not interested in school. Luis visited the center to receive help to find a job but Empower Youth YOC staff helped Luis to acquire a GED, tutoring, taught Luis how to interview and made Luis's life brighter. Luis shared that he made bad choices in his life and now I have a clear view of my future. Luis conveyed that his in college and taking classes in computer technology.

Florentino Maldonado, OASIS, before I came into the OASIS YOC I had nowhere to go. Now I go to school every day and work I will graduate in 2009 a year ahead of schedule. The YOC helped me with computer skills, how to budget my money and spend it wisely.

Mary Jo stated this is what our YOCs are about! Please keep in mind that the majority of youth entering the YOCs doors as dropouts; therefore, each YOC reconnects youth to education through college, vocational training, and pathways.

We are always looking for ways and opportunities to advance our youth. Mary Jo shared a quote from the late President John F. Kennedy, which she felt captures the spirit of the YOCs..."I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities we too will be remembered not for the victories or the defeats in battle or in politics but for our contributions to the human spirit."

Rosa encouraged the WIB members to visit one of the YOCs to learn more about the comprehensive services and other great activities offered youth and participate in an activity with youth or assist staff for an hour or so. She informed the WIB members that the Character Counts Youth Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, April 24, 2009, from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Riverside Marriott.

Rosa asked the WIB members to show commitment by:

- Mentoring a youth,
- Providing worksites for YOC youth,
- Offering scholarship opportunities, and
- Sponsoring youth events.

She thanked the WIB for the opportunity to provide the YOCs presentation.

INFORMATION ITEM 3.1: Character Counts Youth Awards Ceremony

Felicia asked that WIB members who were able to attend please come and support the Character Counts Youth Awards Ceremony. This is our fourth annual ceremony and we will honor six youth who have overcome extenuating obstacles in their lives and turned their lives around. You heard some of these stories today and they are on a path to a brighter future and success.

Our youth need our support and they need us to be there for them. We have many ways of honoring straight "A" students, academic achievers, athletic stars but not youth who have dropped out of school with heart wrenching stories (you need tissues for) and made an effort to reconnect. These resilient youth have overcome and endured many obstacles to excel while on their pathways to success.

The CYD is one of the WIB's committees. This WIB event requires your support so please remember to RSVP. Last year, we honored ten youth at the Mission Inn. These youth were so excited about the opportunity because we thought so highly of them to hold this elaborate event. They were gracious and grateful of the support and this gave them more energy to move forward to achieve their goals. Felicia thanked Tom Donahue, Manager of the Riverside Marriott and his staff for their time and support.

Discussion:

INFORMATION ITEM 3.1: Summer Youth Employment Program

Felicia stated that Riverside County received its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding allocation for youth in the amount of \$9.5 million. This is for a 2-year period and we will use the majority of the funds into the summer youth program this year and set aside some monies for special programming for our year-round project and finish out next year with the summer youth program again.

This year our goal is to put 2,500 youth to work throughout Riverside County this summer. This will be done through partnerships and collaborative efforts. The 12.6 unemployment rate for adults is doubled for youth. Summer jobs traditionally filled by youth are being given to the more experienced adults looking for employment.

Felicia introduced Loren Sims to provide additional information on the Summer Youth Employment Program (SWEP). Loren stated the President signed the stimulus packet on February 17, 2009. On March 5, 2009, we went out to bid for service providers for our Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP). In April, we received six proposals and recommended the WIB Executive Committee approve five of the proposals. With receipt of these five proposals some operators from other parts of Riverside County did not submit a response. We are proposing to actively seek proposals from those areas.

The SWEP serves:

- Youth 14 to 24 years old
- Low income

The work experiences allow youth to:

- Work 120 to 240 hours, and
- Receive a work readiness credential or certificate upon completion of SWEPP.

Our goal is to serve 2,000 to 2,500 youth throughout Riverside County. We are looking for our providers to obtain a work readiness certification of 85 percent. Our outreach marketing campaign will include billboards, radio announcements, press releases and outreach to business to find worksites for the youth to gain work experience.

Loren asked if any WIB board member was interested in becoming a worksite for the SWEPP to fill out the form in their packets. The worksites can be public, non profit or for profit entities. Currently we have contracts to serve 1,400 youth and additional funding recommendations will be presented to the WIB Executive Committee for approval to meet the goal to serve 2,500.

Loren opened the floor for questions. Greg Doonan asked how long had it been since a summer youth program had been run in the county, Felicia responded ten years. Greg stated everyone needed to be made aware of how big an undertaking this is to get the SWEPP up and running in 2 months.

Felicia stated it has been ten years since we have had a summer program and it does take a lot of time and work to get a program this size up and running. Felicia thanked her staff for getting the job done so quickly. In the past, the planning for summer programs would start in September and be ready by June of the next year. Greg stated as WIB members we should assist in offering worksites and Greg committed to taking ten youths at his worksite.

Felicia was asked if there was a target goal for how much of the 9 plus million dollars in funding will be allocated to 2009's summer work program, the year round program and 2010 summer work program. Felicia responded we are trying to allocate 60 percent to the 2009 summer work program, 5 to 10 percent to our year-round initiatives and the remaining balance to the 2010 summer work program. Loren stated 2009's numbers may grow to 65 percent as the federal government was mandated that the majority of the funding be spent in 2009.

Ricardo stated while he was in Washington he was told one of the reasons youth were targeted for summer work is because they will spend their money and help towards stimulating the economy. Ricardo asked Loren when the billboards would be ready, Loren responded in two to three weeks, and Felicia added that the art work had to be resubmitted and approved.

REPORT ITEM 4.1: Regional Committee Updates

Mid County – Robert Little: Mid-County is moving along nicely, we selected two goals. Our area includes Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, San Jacinto, and Hemet; we had a big boom and now are experiencing a big bust. Now we want to partner with other entities and we have put together a Speaker's Kit PowerPoint and video to address what we feel are the areas of concentration:

- Business
- Education
- Economics

We want to let the Mid-County area know that EDA is a wonderful group and available to them. It will help make our tax dollars go further if they take advantage of the Workforce Development Center (WDC) programs. We will speak to city councils, economic boards, school districts and others. The presentations will be tailored to address business, education and economics.

Pat Ramos added we will create a Speaker's Bureau Group to have individuals available to go out and address

the different groups. We need to get out and tell our story, share our services and programs we have available.

Southwest – Morris Myers: The Southwest year one strategy is to identify and define the skills gap by segment in both industry and geographic area, English as a second language, the three Rs, self discipline, and work ethics. We wanted to go to the industries themselves and find out what they meant by filling the gaps.

We used a list that was previously identified and narrowed the list to these industries:

- Medical
- Utilities
- Advanced Manufacturing

We have had our first meeting with the Medical Industry representative and it was very enlightening to know what they are really expecting from workforce. Our next meeting will be with Advanced Manufacturing Industry representative. Our last meeting, will be with the Utilities Industry representative after which a summary report will be provided to you.

East – Wendy Frederick for Lee Haven: There are two strategies but the major one the East Committee is working on creating a web based tool for career mandates. We found a dynamic website to try and emulate at www.abouthealthcareers.com because the first area we are addressing is Healthcare.

We are in the process of securing funding to go out and look at the design platform. Afterwards, we have a subcommittee that coordinates with the Kirkland Initiative Healthcare Industry Council to do the content. This subcommittee will be very helpful in reviewing a website out of Southeast Pennsylvania. They will make the content more California Healthcare based. After we complete this task, we will look at the other industries we have outlined.

The other area the East Committee is looking at is coordinating through the economic development strategies. Coachella Valley is currently going through Market Inc. Market Inc. is doing an in-depth economic study and once they are complete we will try to coordinate with all of the occupations out there in the plan. Currently, they are looking at:

- Healthcare
- Clean energy
- Logistics
- Arts, media and entertainment

Jim King stated the video we viewed on the healthcare careers in the website showed how you could pick a career such as pharmacist and go in and see all the steps you need to take and the skills required to become a pharmacist.

West – Jamil Dada: Mark Christiansen spoke to us at our last regional meeting and made presentation on Workforce Innovation Technical Solutions (WITS). It is a website which has a lot of great information and how to utilize it for business and workforce. Mark also gave a presentation on Clusters of Opportunities, which is one of our goals to identify current and future high demand industries. Under Clusters of Opportunities we discussed:

- Professional and business services
- Renewable energy
- Healthcare
- Utilities
- Infrastructure

Kevin Fleming provided a presentation on green industries and jobs.

Governor's Green Collar Jobs Council (GGCJC) – Jamil Dada: I am serving on the GGCJC and learning all about green jobs and I found Kevin's presentation very enlightening.

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) – Jamil Dada: The State of California received an additional \$425 and Sacramento is still working on what will happen with labor and workforce funding through the State. I received an email to meet with a small group in Santa Monica to discuss workforce issues, green collar and stimulus monies. I will give an update on this meeting at our next WIB Committee meeting.

The NAWB Forum was a terrific conference in addition to the Hill Visits with our own congressional delegation and the senate. We also heard a presentation from President Clinton which can be seen in its entirety at www.nawb.org. We heard from Senator Patty Murray of the State of Washington is heading up the Senate Health Committee that includes health, education, and welfare during Senator Ted Kennedy's illness.

We also heard from the following legislators:

- Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, a member of the Education and Labor Committee;
- Congressman Ruben Hinojosa from Texas who is the chair of the Subcommittee for Appropriations for Workforce and labor
 - He committed to our audience that they will be reauthorizing WIA by this fall.
- Congressman Buck McKeon the ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee.

There were good messages and substantial support, but the main focus was on getting the Stimulus funding out into the workforce. The President has appointed Jay Oates as the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration and I have an appointment to meet with Secretary Oates on April 30, 2009. Finally, we heard from the Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis. We will be working closely with ETA and the Labor department as we move forward with workforce concerns.

I received a call from the Lighthouse and NAWB that the President is putting together a group on NAWB's needs to be represented at the table. Jamil stated that when he is in Washington not only does he represent NAWB, and the State of California but he represents Riverside County also.

REPORT ITEM 4.2: Chair

Ricardo asked the EDA staff to stand to be recognized for their hard work by the WIB members. He encouraged the other members to stop in at the YOCs and WDCs to see how the work and programs are being administered.

Ricardo stated the NAWB trip was very enlightening for him as he watched the new administration and the change in direction take place. As the stimulus funding is disseminated to the County what we want ensure sustainability as well. When we met with our congressional representatives it is important to let them know this is our goal, and we appreciate the funding but we still are minus the dollars we had years ago. We have a higher unemployment and larger population now than we did years ago.

We showed them our collaborations with Green Valley Initiative, the California State Workforce Investment Board, Inland Empire Economic Partnership and other community organizations in workforce development, which proved how serious we are about sustainability.

Ricardo thanked the CYD for its wonderful work with the Character Counts Youth Awards Ceremony.

REPORT ITEM 4.3: Director

Felicia asked to look at the ARRA handout and our proposed plan. Felicia stated the monies have been finalized and Riverside has received its allocation. Of the \$400 million dollars allocated to California, Riverside County received \$20.9 million due to a 12.6 percent unemployment rate:

- \$7.4 million for dislocated workers

- \$4.0 million for adults
- \$9.5 million for youth

The Service Delivery overview shows our goal to take the majority of the funding and get it out onto the streets via training contracts, collaborations, partnerships, and into services and programs we believe will need seed funding to provide ongoing services. This will start programs to expand some of what we are doing within our communities to help the numbers of underemployed and unemployed people and youth that we see coming through our WDCs and YOCs doors.

Last month 15,000 came through, 10,000 were enrolled into our system and we have not had the capacity or resources to service all of them. Our centers are overwhelmed but the challenge is, while we are being told to spend it fast and spend it well, this funding still comes with federal rules and regulations for contracting. WDC staff is looking over how to redesign how we do our work to make a better impact and forge the partnership and collaboration through existing and new partnerships.

What we are trying to achieve is challenging due to capacity. We have lost much of our funding and we have shrunk so far that in order to accomplish our goals in need of a minimum of 30 new staff and another center opened. This is to meet the demands we see now not knowing if or when we will hit bottom. The County and the State situation have EDA doing hiring freezes, which does not affect us but it slows up the process of hiring staff. Meanwhile we are working hard with the staff we have.

Felicia stated she wanted to publicly acknowledge her management team and staff for their outstanding efforts they put forth on behalf of the WIB and the County to ensure we accomplish the goals. The County remains an example of working collaboratively across the County to utilize resources to have the best impact possible.

Finally at the California Workforce Association (CWA) Board of Directors conference we had a number of meetings and for the first time we had a spirit of cooperation across the systems. There are a number of other systems who are getting money and are looking to us to be the training arm for their delivery workforce services. We had a meeting with the State Energy Commission (SEC) which is receiving money from two sources; one is block grant funds and the other is the State energy program.

The SCE is looking to do energy efficient retrofits and water retrofits on residential, industrial, and commercial facilities. The money is coming from local cities and counties to start these retrofit programs. The message they gave to us was that they do not have the workforce to do this. They are looking to give us a part of the money and they want give 49 local areas in California the money to do the training of the workforce.

This will be another pool of money which will help us to train residential construction workers who have been laid off and are still seeking employment. It will also help our apprenticeship programs to work with contractors to retool their existing workforce and to redesign how they do business to take on this additional work.

We will also be looking at helping youth develop skills they will need to go into; for example, energy audits and other needs. We will also work with our community action partnerships to help do weatherization. Internally, I will hold meetings because money is available statewide through Housing program funds and we will look at collaborating and finding ways to help their workforce.

Monday, April 20, 2009, we will meet with our community college partners to discuss training and what we can contract with them to do and what we need to do through our procurement process. We will be having a number of partnership meetings throughout and some of you may be called upon to attend these meetings so we can effectively partner together to get the job done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Loew, Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), stated to follow-up on Felicia's comments, I think we will find ourselves rushing to get things accomplished and will begin stepping over each other at times. We will also be required to think outside of the box, which is a great opportunity to work closer

with our partners.

DPSS is assisting many individuals through GAIN and food stamps who are looking for employment also. We are exploring ways to create work experience opportunities for them in light of fewer jobs being available. DPSS is trying hard not to create duplication of efforts, but we will be turning to our employer community in similar ways. We are a different population, which presents many opportunities for our business community to look at how they can be supportive during this time.

There are so many opportunities available at this time that it really a matter of how we maximize them and take advantage of them.

Bill Prouty, Chairman of the Desert Sierra Health Network a collaborative for three counties and also the Chairman for the Employer Advisor Council of Corona and Chairman of the Explorer Program in the Inland Empire, provided information on the number of national and international skills programs these organizations offer. They are as follows:

- Logistics
- Manufacturing
- Healthcare
- Information Technology
- And a number of others

These programs can be brought into this system. Please let me know if you have questions regarding these programs, I would be glad to speak with about them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

The April 15, 2009, WIB Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.