



QUALITY JOBS. QUALIFIED WORKERS.

## **ARIZONA@WORK Pima County One-Stop “Core Program Partners and Other Partners” Meeting**

**Friday, February 9, 2018, 9:15 a.m.**

Pima Community College, Community Campus, Meeting Room A-230  
401 N. Bonita Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85709

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Members Present**

Lisa Verdugo	Joaquin Murrieta
Dr. Vaughn E. Croft	Kari Hogan
Peggy Castano	Gary J. Garcia
Christian Espinoza	Julie Neff-Encinas
Glenda Roark	

#### **Members Absent**

Amanda Abens	Rose Grijalva
Dan Sullivan	Jorge Rivero
Christopher Tafoya	Jenn Felix
Miryam A. Valenzuela	Michael Gates
Brad McCormick	Daphanie Conner
Regina Suitt	Laurie Kierstead-Joseph
Christopher G. Hisel	

#### **Guests Present**

Tim Tucker	Sean Lopez
Matt Knitter	Dorothee Harmon
Tabitha Pennington	Rachel Hilgefard

- I. Called to Order:** Julie Neff-Encinas, Title II Adult Education and Literacy, 9:21 a.m.
- II. Action Item:** To Review the 01/12/18 Meeting Summary. The Committee reviewed the 01/12/18 Meeting Summary.
- III. A Second Chance for Returning Citizens:** Julie Neff-Encinas explained how the Second Chance Committee leads efforts to help employers to hire returning citizens and to help the returning citizens to connect to the employers. The returning citizens need a safe environment, employment, and their community to help them succeed.

It is very helpful when a person is able to leave prison and live in a safe environment. For example, during time behind bars, a parent or spouse may move to a better neighborhood than the one of inmate's childhood. Without the temptations of former relationships, it is easier for the returning citizen to stay away from his/her old habits and lifestyle. The person doesn't have to go home to the environment that was drug-infested, with people getting shot, and/or where there is temptation everywhere.

For many returning citizens, finding a job can be almost impossible due to their criminal records. Every day, former prisoners face more than 48,000 documented legal restrictions, which block their access to their housing, education, and employment. Sometimes a returning citizen may

get a job within their first week of freedom. In one situation, the returning citizen was hired in his first week because his employer had gotten to know him when he volunteered at the correctional facility. The employer offered the inmate a job as a painter once he was released. When returning citizens are unable to work, they are also unable to meet their parole and probation requirements and can end up returning to prison.

If returning citizens have a church community willing to stand with them, this strong group of Christian men and women can hold the returning citizen accountable, help them along, and refuse to let them fall back into their old habits. Many times before the person went to prison, people all around them may have been drug dealers and/or killers. When a returning citizen chooses to attend church after prison, they will have friends who are engineers, lawyers, construction workers, and others - and their environment will be totally different and for the better. Most church communities will see past the returning citizen's criminal record and acknowledge his God-given potential. This will make a huge difference in how the returning citizen will thrive in his second chance at life.

**IV. One-Stop Partner Updates:** The Partners shared updates for their organization's WIOA-related programs and activities.

A. Dorothee Harmon reported that if any of the local areas have revisions for the Arizona State Workforce Development Plan 2016-2020 2-Year Modification, they are due to the Arizona D.E.S. WIOA staff on 01/31/18. The Public Comment Period is 03/02 to 03/15/18 and all key stakeholders are encouraged to review the Plan and to submit any modifications. D.E.S. must submit the Plan Modifications to the U.S. Department of Labor on or before 03/15/18.

**V. Next Meeting:** Friday, March 9, 2018

**VI. Adjourned:** 10:35 a.m.



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

