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**MEETING OF THE
PIMA COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)
Planning Committee**

Thursday, May 17, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.

University of Phoenix, Southern Arizona Campus, 300 S. Craycroft Road, 85711

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Bruce W. Grant Liz Gulick
Molly Gilbert Regina Suitt
Dr. Mark P. Vitale

Members Absent

Bev Price Paul Roughton
Ian R. Roark Susan Hyatt Dumon
Brad McCormick

Guests and Pima County Staff

Anna M. Cunes Dorothee Harmon

- I. **Called to Order:** Bruce W. Grant, Chair, 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Action Item:** To approve April 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Molly Gilbert motioned to approve the Minutes; Liz Gulick seconded the motion; and all were in favor.
- III. **Pima County Economic Development Plan Update:** Dorothee Harmon went over the 2019-2020 Economic Development Outline and the section that pertains to the WIB - *Chapter 3: Workforce Development* with the Committee.

Dorothee Harmon reported that increasing Labor Force Participation is a big theme that Pima County staff are hearing from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and the Governor's office. Arizona has a disproportioned high percentage of working age adults who are not employed nor looking for work. There are some re-entry efforts to reintegrate those who have criminal records and are having trouble finding employment.

Transitioning from Public Assistance, including refugees - There are Federal and State efforts being done for the individuals who need to transition from public assistance and enter the workforce.

Discussion and action can occur on any agenda item.

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Regina Suitt asked if anyone was aware of the immigrants who have a work permit and they need to renew their application. If the person is receiving public assistance there are charges that have broadened the scope. This is not just for new immigrants but also for immigrants who renew immigrant applications. This may affect how many immigrants will be asking for help and/or looking for work.

Dorothee Harmon mentioned that there are a lot of Job Seekers with basic skills deficiencies.

County Anti-Poverty Initiatives – engaging employers to be in the Employer Resource Network (ERN) and the County’s model to promote in-house promotions and advancement.

Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World is an excellent portal to other programs. Individuals are offered assistance and exposed to several programs and opportunities.

Increasing Labor-Force Participation - Terrance Cheung, Program Manager, Pima County Administrator’s Office, manages the Criminal Justice Reform Unit and works primarily on the MacArthur Foundation Safety + Justice Challenge. The Safety + Justice Challenge is a national, five-year, \$100 million, 40-site effort aimed at reducing over-incarceration in the United States. Pima County’s \$1.5 million, 2-year award is being used to implement community supported strategies to safely lower the jail population by nearly 26% from an average daily population at the jail from 2136 in 2014 to 1574 by 2019.

Liz Gulick asked how the pilot Employer Resource Network (ERN) went and Dorothee replied that between Sahuarita and Tucson, there might be five employers currently participating in the ERN. Sahuarita employers include the Town of Sahuarita, the Sahuarita Food Bank, and La Posada at Park Center, Inc. The Tucson employers include El Rio Health Care; Industrial Tool, Die and Engineering, Inc. (ITDE); Hi-Tech Machining & Engineering; and Perfection Industrial Finishing.

Dorothee believes that employers who have 200-300 employees benefit the most. Dorothee said that she will email an electronic version of the Outline to the Committee and asked Committee members to please provide any suggested revisions to her on or before 05/31/18. The Plan is due to the County Administrator’s office on or before 06/30/18.

IV. Pima County Career Pathways Target Occupations: Dorothee reported that there are no proposed new occupations and suggested that if the item is a standing item on the agenda, a discussion may occur for when there is a need to address a request or discussion that may occur related to the Target Occupations. For example, Dorothee recently came across a grant that addresses opioids and the professional development and social services occupations that could help to deal with the opioids epidemic.

Note: Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin ®), hydrocodone (Vicodin ®), codeine, morphine, and many others.

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The Behavioral Health certificate is one occupation that was removed and now Pima Community College (PCC) is building the career pathway. Pima County staff are looking at the labor data in the health industry for a licensed social worker in psychology. 30 people were laid off at COPE and it was around that same time when Pima County pulled away from the Behavioral Health certificate. The market is restructuring or is it really a down turn. We should invest in the Behavioral Health certificate if it does end up building a pipeline. Regina said if the grant will cover the training cost, it would be a good opportunity to test the need for adding the Occupation.

V. Next Meeting: June 21, 2018, 8 a.m., University of Phoenix

VI. Adjourned: 9 a.m.

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