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Strategy & Impact Committee Meeting

Date Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Time 11:30 am MST

Place Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
304 Texas Avenue, First Floor Conference Room, El Paso, Texas 79901

Committee Members Present:

Bobby Alcala
Ernestina Fauntleroy
Art Garza
Mary Jo Ochoa
Emma Schwartz

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Armando Aguirre
Bob Gear

Staff Members Present:

Leila Melendez	Karina Castillo	Odette Flores-Ruiz
Abigail Ruiz	Mariel Soto	
Alma Aranda	Marisela Correa	

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE

Ms. Leila Melendez, CEO, called the meeting to order at 11:36 am. Quorum was cited.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A: Discussion and Action to appoint Strategy & Impact Committee Chair
(*Leila Melendez, CEO*)

Motion (Alcala, Schwartz) to appoint Ms. Mary Jo Ochoa as the Strategy & Impact Committee Chair. Motion carried 4-0.

B: Discussion and Action to Approve the:

- WSB Child Care Advisory Committee
 - Operation Plan
 - Proposed Appointed Representatives
- Parent Suspension Request
(*Marisela Correa, Family Services Director*)

Ms. Ernestina Fauntleroy arrived at 11:38 am. MST.

Motion (Schwartz/Fauntleroy) to approve the WSB Child Care Advisory Committee to include the Operation Plan and the Proposed Appointed Representatives along with the Parent Suspension Request. Motion carried 5-0.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A: Discussion and update on UTEP National NSF Engines Competition
(Leila Melendez, CEO)

Ms. Melendez discussed the role Workforce Solutions Borderplex will have in the Paso del Norte Defense and Aerospace Innovation Engine grant that UTEP is applying for. The award is for \$15 million for 10 years.

B: Discussion and update on EDA Phase1- Borderplex Region Workforce Recompete Initiative
(Alma Aranda, Director of Innovation and Development)

Ms. Alma Aranda, Director of Innovation and Development, discussed the EDA Phase 1- Borderplex Region Workforce Recompete Initiative in collaboration with the City of El Paso. The grant was a two-phase application; El Paso was selected to continue with phase two. The grant consists of \$50 million in funding to upskill the area of El Paso County.

C: Discussion and presentation on Living Wage for Large Metros & Workforce Stability
(Mariel Soto, Research Specialist)

Ms. Mariel Soto, Research Specialist, presented the Living Wage compared to other large cities and how the Borderplex region compares whenever a new business wants to open a new location. Ms. Soto also presented the population demographics, the housing market, and employment trends.

4. ADJOURN

A: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda

Motion (Alcala/Fauntleroy) to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:41 pm. MST.