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Rural Subcommittee Meeting

date Wednesday, October 25, 2023

time 9:00 am MST

place Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
304 Texas Avenue, 14th Floor, El Paso, Texas 79901

This will be a teleconference meeting, see Notes section below the enumerated Agenda items for further instructions.

Committee Members Present:

Randall Kinzie, Chair
Dan Dunlap
Mary Jo Ochoa
Frank Spencer III

Committee Members Absent:

Peggy O'Brien
Marco Tristan

Staff Members Present:

Leila Melendez
Abigail Ruiz
Denisse Arrieta

Marisela Correa
Monica Jasso
Myriam Guerrero

Odette Flores-Ruiz
Rogelio Luna
Zonia Sigala

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE

(Randall Kinzie, Rural Subcommittee Chair)

Mr. Randall Kinzie, Rural Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am MST. Quorum was cited.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A: Report and update on Unemployment Insurance metrics in the rural areas
(Denisse Wiley, Deputy Director, Grant Associates)

Ms. Denisse Wiley, Deputy Director, Grant Associates, provided an update regarding the services in the rural areas from October 2022 through September 2023. Ms. Wiley discussed that there were 221 UI claimants, 29 clients served, 95 job referrals, 41 resume assistance, 74 Work in Texas registrations, and 47 UI orientations.

B: Discussion and update on Business Services Unit activities in the rural areas
(Denisse Wiley, Deputy Director, Grant Associates)

Ms. Wiley provided a report regarding the rural job orders by zip code in the rural areas. Ms. Wiley discussed the New Frontiers JobCon and mentioned that 21 employers and 280 students attended the event at the Pete Gallegos Center. Ms. Wiley said that the Business Services team has been working with Sierra Blanca for the JobCon 2.0 Career Fair on November 15th.

C: Update on Rural Activities (*Odette Flores-Ruiz, Rural Development Project Manager*)

- Alpine ISD, ACCESS updates
- New Frontiers Job Con and Sierra Blanca ISD Career Fair
- Porter's honored as Hireability Outstanding Employer
- Other Rural Updates

Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, Rural Development Project Manager, discussed the Star Tech Group ACCESS platform currently working with Alpine ISD. The platform is for K-12 students, parents, and employers to get involved in the community by providing internships and work-based opportunities. Ms. Flores-Ruiz discussed that Porter's Presidio was honored last week as a HireAbility Outstanding Employer.

D: Discussion and update on rural childcare services (*Marisela Correa, Family Services Director*)

- Increasing Availability of Child Care Providers
- Rural Outreach Initiative – Presidio County

Ms. Marisela Correa, Family Services Director, discussed that childcare services in Brewster and Presidio counties have been increasing. Alpine ISD Child Development Center has 14 children enrolled. Staff has been working with a home provider interested in becoming a CCS Provider.

3. ADJOURN

A: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – February 28, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 am MST.