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Industry and Economic Development Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Time: 11:30 a.m. MST

Location: Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
304 Texas Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room
El Paso, Texas 79901

Committee Members Present:

Ralph Adame
Joseph Biernacki
Christina Gonzalez
Ruben Torres

Committee Members Absent:

Art Garza
Leonard Goodman
Dr. William Serrata

Staff Members Present:

Leila Melendez
Abigail Ruiz
Bianca Cervantes
David Cuellar
Diana Velazquez
Eduardo Anaya
Karina Castillo
Myriam Guerrero

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE

Industry and Economic Development Committee Chair

Ms. Leila Melendez, CEO called the meeting to order at 11:37. MST. Quorum was cited.

2. ACTIVITY REPORTS

A: Discussion and updates on Economic and Workforce Development projects

(Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer, and Alma Aranda, Director of Innovation and Development)

- DOL Pathways for Heroes grant award
- Healthcare Opportunities for Change
- El Paso Electric and Western Tech Line Worker Project
- Middle Skills Grant and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grants
- Spaceport Development Corporation

Ms. Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer, discussed the Department of Labor Pathways for Heroes \$4.7 million grant award to train 400 transitioning soldiers during a 24-month period. Regarding Healthcare Opportunities for Change, Ms. Melendez discussed that the Capital Area Workforce Board performs a key, neutral function as a mediator between schools and 13 healthcare providers for clinical rotation slots. WSB met with Del Sol Clinical Coordinators and learned that the matching work is done manually, although HCA Corporation is considering enterprise software. Ms. Melendez asked Committee Members if this is a service for the Board to do. Ms. Melendez will meet with Art Garza from Del Sol to discuss the clinical rotations. Regarding the El Paso Electric and Western Tech Line Worker Project, El Paso Electric has historically worked with Doña Ana Community College on the line-worker training program. Western Tech is developing a local program, currently pending accreditation approval. Western Tech is working on submitting costs for a cohort of 10 students. WSB proposed a TIP application where El Paso Electric would contribute funds to WSB. WSB would match dollar for dollar, and the funds would go towards paying for 10 students which would be WSB clients. The Texas Workforce Commission provided WSB with \$67,130 for support services through the Middle Skills Grant and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grant. Ms. Melendez discussed that WSB is represented at the West Texas Spaceport Development Corporation Board of Directors.

B: Discussion and update on the Business Intelligence Contracts
(Diana Velazquez, Purchasing & Contracts Manager & Bianca Cervantes, Communications Director)

Ms. Diana Velazquez, Purchasing & Contracts Manager, explained the formal quote request process. Ms. Bianca Cervantes, Communications Director, discussed the economic development initiatives and ongoing partnerships with the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Paso Del Norte Community Foundation, and the Borderplex Alliance.

4. ADJOURN

A: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – June 21, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm. MST.