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Rural Subcommittee Meeting

date Wednesday, August 23, 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
Dr. Jose Manuel De la Rosa
Peggy O'Brien
Marco Tristan

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Dunlap
Mary Jo Ochoa
Frank Spencer III

Staff Members Present:

Leila Melendez
Bianca Cervantes
Denisse Arrieta

Zonia Sigala

Ivette Alvarado
Kandolite Carson
Odette Flores-Ruiz

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 9:03 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 updates regarding Unemployment Insurance in the rural area, she stated that there were 137 UI claimants, 23 clients were served, 72 job referrals were provided, 35 customers received resume assistance, there were 70 Work in Texas registrations, and 45 customers attended UI orientation.

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

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Ms. Wiley discussed the number of job openings and mentioned that the areas with higher job openings continue to be Alpine, Canutillo, Marfa and Vinton. Ms. Wiley discussed that for the Growing Forward program, a TANF2 initiative for youth 14-24 years of age, there are 23 slots, and 21 customers have been placed. Ms. Wiley announced that the New Frontiers JobCon is scheduled for September 14 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and will be held at the Pete Gallegos Center at Sul Ross University.

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

Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, Interim Rural Development Project Manager, discussed that the Texas Conference for Employers took place on July 27 at the Hotel Paisano in Marfa, Texas, there were 46 attendees in person and 46 virtual attendees. Ms. Flores-Ruiz announced that surveys for the Regional Broadband are still being accepted and mentioned that they will be collected through August 31st. Ms. Flores-Ruiz discussed that Alpine ISD and ACCESS are working together to empower economic independence in every Alpine ISD student. ACCESS is a platform that aligns students' career interests and connects them to local businesses and industries to educate, explore, and empower students.

D: Discussion and update on rural childcare services (*Ivette Alvarado, Project Specialist II*)

Ms. Announced that the Alpine Child Development Center officially opened on August 16 and mentioned that the total capacity is 78 with a total infant capacity of 31. There are 13 children enrolled.

3. ADJOURN

A: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – October 25, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am MST.