

## Nov 16, 2022 | [Public Input Session WIOA Plans](#)

### Attendees:

- Amreen Keval - Operations Manager, FITRAH
- Angelina Olweny, Project Associate, Valley Vision
- Cindy Newton, Executive Director, NCCC
- Denise Lee, Interim Executive Director, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA)
- Erica Johnson, Interim Manager, Health and Human Services Agency, Yolo County
- Jason Buckingham, Executive Director, Golden Sierra
- Julie Davis-Jaffe, Workforce Development Manager, SETA
- Lauren Mechals, Workforce Development Manager, SETA
- Lisa Vincent, Admin Analyst, Yolo County HHS
- Michelle O'Camb - Manager, Workforce Development, SETA/Sacramento Works
- Renee John, Director Workforce Development, Valley Vision
- Roy Kim, Deputy Director-Workforce Development, SETA
- Susan Wheeler, Regional Workforce Development Program Manager, SMUD
- Vanessa Cuevas-Romero, Sac Co Division of Behavioral Health Services
- William Walker, Workforce Development Manager, SETA
- Yassi Lam, Glenn County Community Action Department/AJCC in Glenn County.
- Yzabelle Dela Cruz, Valley Vision, Project Manager Workforce Development

### Meeting Notes

- **How can we increase awareness of services to job seekers and the underemployed? What are the best tools and/or location we can use to increase awareness of the services available?**
  - Being a WIOA provider might be restrictive to some so organizations don't sign up to provide WIOA programs. Understanding the barriers that organizations have in getting involved with WIOA programs and helping them get the word out is key.
  - One way to reach community members is to use ambassador programs in communities organizations are trying to reach. Ambassadors who come from the community can talk to people about existing services and how to get access to those services.
  - Connecting with local Head Start programs to increase awareness about the job training opportunities and services available. This might be helpful since most of the people served by Head Start programs are low income families.
  - Organizations need to focus on meeting the needs of community members and also determine who is doing a better job of connecting to communities in need.

- Any social media tools used by companies need to be branded by organizations however, youth may be turned off by polished branding and miss out on opportunities.
- **How can we better serve vulnerable, minority, and underserved job seekers? What services are the most effective in lifting communities out of poverty?**
  - Most people need maintenance to help them get through the program. They can't go through the program and maintain employment. They need a stipend to support them as they go through the program. They cannot afford to not work and attend the program.
  - Case management is huge -the workload the case workers have is high (30-1 ratio). It creates a challenge. Some people need either a cheerleader, prodding, or direction as they obtain a particular service. If case workers are providing service to a large group of people they cannot provide more personalized support to help individuals go through programs.
  - Finding the proper mental health support is huge, because people coming through the program have trauma and other challenges and they need to have access or awareness where to go if they need help with mental health challenges.
  - Some people want more condensed and shorter training programs because people are eager to get jobs. They are not interested in programs that can take a year or even six months to complete.
- **How can we increase awareness of services to employers and better meet employer needs?**
  - Products of the programs are the people - Employers need to feel comfortable that people who go through the programs are well prepared. Highlight success stories so that employers know that individuals who go through WIOA programs are competent because some people have preconceived ideas about youth.
  - We should make employers part of the plan and get them involved in training programs instead of presupposing what employers need. Listen to what employers want.
- **Do we currently offer the right mix of services? Are additional services needed?**
- Yes, there is a need for:
  - Transportation services
  - Mental health services
- **What characteristics of quality jobs should be focused on?**
  - Jobs that have a career path not a dead end.
  - Polling individuals who receive services to see what they define as quality jobs.
  - Jobs that have upward mobility.
  - People don't have time to invest in a six month or a year program. Earn and learn opportunities like the apprenticeship model is ideal. Some people don't want to

sit in a classroom. They want practical application to skills that allows them to identify their interests and a training program that leads to an income opportunity.

- Jobs that provide a path out of poverty
- Jobs that are geared towards those that are differently abled- wheelchair etc.
  
- **What requires additional attention? Are there specific sectors, customer groups or services or areas that could benefit from a more concentrated focus for the boards.**
  - A real asset in the Sacramento region is being the seat of state government. Having public sector jobs is a strength of the region.
  
- **Any thoughts regional indicators and metrics that will measure outcomes**
  - Using zip codes that track individuals served could be compared to SMUD's resource priorities map that identifies high need communities within SMUD's service area. This type of tracking can show if individuals being served are coming from high need communities.