



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(LACWDB)
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**December 10, 2024
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Department of Economic Opportunity Headquarters
510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

CALL TO ORDER

Business Engagement Committee Chair Darrel Saucedo called the December 10, 2024, Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board's (LACWDB) Business Engagement Committee meeting to order at 3:26 PM.

Land Acknowledgement was read by LACWDB staff:

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants- past, present, and emerging- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler-colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugations, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgement demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native Peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the:

- Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrielino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians
- Kizh Nation - San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Please find the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website below at:

Attachments: [Board Motion](#)

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with 5 **members** in-person attendance during roll call.

Present: 5 (3 in-person and 2 virtual): Mary Hewitt (Virtual), Tami Hutchins-Nunez (in person), Jorge Marquez (in person), Darrel Saucedo (in person), Jeffrey Thompson (Virtual).

Dr. Yanez from My Workforce Solutions, a company specializing in job training in the electric vehicle sector, was in attendance. Larry Taylor, chair emeritus of the National Association of Corporate Directors, was also in attendance. He also served on numerous corporate boards for the last 30 years.

Conflict of Interest was read by LACWDB staff:

Members shall abide by conflict-of-interest requirements outlined in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Section 107(h), which states a member of a local board, or a member of a standing committee, may not vote on a matter under consideration by the local board (1) regarding the provision of services by such member represents; or (2) that would provide a direct financial benefit to such member of the immediate family of such member.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Saucedo thanked the board members for attending the meeting, in person and virtually.

A. ACTION ITEMS

I. REVIEW THE PURPOSE OF BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Presenter: Darrel Saucedo, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

Summary: This item is for the discussion and approval of tasking the Business Engagement Committee with creating a Business Engagement Plan.

- Chair Saucedo opened the discussion on the committee's purpose, spotlighting the Fairplex's auto repair program, and hydrogen vehicle conversions as workforce opportunities.
- Dr. Michelle Yanez emphasized public-private partnerships (e.g., with Proterra via MCS), the push for clean truck tech at Los Angeles (LA)/Long Beach ports, AQMD-supported green workforce training through the Miguel Contreras Foundation, and 28 planned training hubs statewide.
- Member Marquez proposed:

- Employer advisory boards (5–10 employers each) tied to Centers of Excellence (COEs).
- Three initial objectives: employer engagement, awareness of the LA County workforce system, and identifying market trends.
- A standalone committee website, business intelligence survey, and mid-cycle meetings.
- Member Hutchins Nunez:
 - Advocated for standardized, hybrid training programs and Justice40 funding priorities.
 - Highlighted the need for toolkits, consistent onboarding, and wraparound services (e.g., housing, financial literacy).
 - Stressed the healthcare sector’s demand for a blend of soft and technical skills.
- Member Thompson flagged challenges aligning public training with evolving business needs, especially with automation and racial equity concerns. Encouraged connecting with LA County’s business-facing nonprofits.
- Mr. Taylor supported America’s Job Centers of California (AJCC) involvement and requested a system overview for onboarding.
- Member Hewitt called for an AJCC marketing and outreach strategy.
- LACWDB staff clarified COE definitions and Brown Act guidelines, and offered orientation materials on DEO, LACWDB, and the AJCCs.

II. APPROVE MICHELLE YANEZ AND MR. LARRY TAYLOR AS AN OUTSIDE EXPERT MEMBERS FOR THE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Presenter: Darrel Saucedo, Chair, Business Engagement Committee

This item presents for review and approval of the outside experts member Michelle Yanez and Larry Taylor on the Business Engagement Committee as nominated by the Chair.

It was moved by Member Marquez and seconded by Member Hewitt to approve for recommendation Dr. Michelle Yanez and Mr. Larry Taylor as outside expert member to the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board Business Engagement Committee.

Motion passes with a unanimous vote.

In Favor (5): Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Jorge Marquez, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson

Abstain (0)

Recused (0)

Opposed (0)

Absent (0)

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment received.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Saucedo adjourned the meeting at 4:14 pm.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS – NEXT STEPS

- Create advisory boards comprised of employers tied to COEs
- Provide members with AJCC Modernization and related efforts materials
- Develop marketing/outreach plan for the AJCCs, along with a toolbox that includes information on the role of DEO, LACWDB, and the AJCCs.
- Explore the feasibility of developing a standalone website for the Business Engagement Committee