Subject: Update from the Alliance for Workforce Development on Operations in Butte County

Department: County Administration  Meeting Date Requested: August 8, 2017

Contact: Casey Hatcher  Phone: 530.538.6182

Department Summary: (Information provided in this section will be included on the agenda. Attach explanatory memorandum and other background information as necessary).

As part of the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC), the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) delivers the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs for Adults, Youth, Dislocated Workers and Businesses throughout Lassen, Plumas, Modoc, Sierra and Butte counties.

The Assistant Director of Butte County Operations for Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc., Luis Moreno, will provide the Board of Supervisors with an update on the status of services provided in Butte County.

Fiscal Impact:
Does not apply.

Personnel Impact:
Does not apply.

Action Requested:
Accept for information.
Discussion Paper:
Briefing on the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. operations in Butte County

1. Purpose: It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to update you on the activities at the Butte County Employment Centers, your local America’s Job Centers of California (AJCC). Our mission is to serve as a common point of access for job seekers, employers and community members for the purpose of education, training, employment, referral and other supportive services. AFWD delivers federal and state Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs for Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth of Butte County.

2. Discussion: AFWD is one of four service providers for the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) providing various workforce development programs in six of NoRTEC’s 11 counties, Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties. Supervisor Lambert continues to represent Butte County on the NoRTEC Governing Board. AFWD’s purpose is to create an atmosphere for both the job seeker and the employer – A place where they can succeed in all endeavors by using the services available to them. We continue to put an emphasis on our “business first” philosophy, as embraced by NoRTEC and also by the new legislation, which increases the focus on business outreach and requiring that businesses be in the forefront of our service delivery models.

We are in year three (3) of WIOA, which was signed into law in July 2014. This legislation brought about big changes to the workforce development system. The most significant change was the requirement to better align all partners in the workforce system to meet job seeker and employer needs. This led to an increase in partnerships, program alignment and unified regulations. In addition the new legislation provided for a stronger emphasis on career pathways and a focus on industry sectors.

Staff continue to work with job seekers and local businesses to ensure that employers find the most qualified individuals for the job and our job seeking customers obtain sustainable work. All efforts are tied to enhancing the workforce development, economic vitality, and a stable and prosperous business community throughout Butte County.

- Butte County’s unemployment rate for June of 2017 stood at 6.1%, while the state’s unemployment rate is at 4.9%. This is one percent lower than this time last year, when Butte County’s unemployment rate stood at 7.1%.
Customers July 1, 2016– June 30, 2017: A total of 61,416 individuals utilized the many services available through the Butte County Employment Centers in Chico and Oroville.

Business Services: We provided 872 businesses with a range of services including, business retention, expansion, recruitment, job postings, labor market information, human resource support, layoff assistance and access to interviewing and meeting space. A total of 5,520 services were provided to these businesses, indicating that multiple contacts/services are being provided to these employers. This demonstrates that AFWD is succeeding in what WIOA envisioned, which is the development of long-term relationships with our local employers in order to better understand their needs.

Rapid Response Activities: From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, we assisted 245 individuals who were affected by 27 business layoff activities. These individuals were provided career advising, job search assistance and worked with staff on getting back into the workforce.

3. Program Highlights:

Employer Based Training: AFWD worked with numerous employers throughout the county to provide employer based training to individuals who lacked all of the necessary skills for their new jobs. The On the Job Training (OJT) program reimburses employers a percentage of an individual’s wages to assist with the additional costs associated with the extra training. A total of 252 clients were placed in OJTs this year with a total of $1,016,698 going back to the employers in reimbursements.

Numerous businesses also hosted internship opportunities for individuals to be exposed to and explore various career fields. Our internship program supports all costs of an individual’s wages, which totaled $202,012 for 37 placements.

Classroom Training: Many of our clients require additional training and or certifications in a specific field in order to obtain full-time employment. In the 16/17 program year, AFWD enrolled 292 clients into classroom training/certification programs. Although the majority of our clients attended training in the healthcare field, other certifications included Welding, Firefighting, Law Enforcement, HVAC and truck driving, to name a few. The total amount funded for certifications this year totaled $174, 432.

National Dislocated Worker Grants/Temporary Job Creation: In early 2017, the president signed at emergency disaster declaration for the State of California as a result of the ongoing storms, floods and most notably the Oroville Dam situation. With this declaration, federal funding was made available to assist with clean-up efforts in counties that were designated disaster areas. Butte County was one of the counties included. With these funds, temporary jobs have been created for long-term unemployed job seekers to assist public and non-profit organizations with their clean-up projects related to the winter storms. The first phase of this project will end on September 30th, where AFWD will have paid out approximately $800,000 in wages.
Job Fairs: AFWD coordinated and/or participated in several job/hiring fairs that resulted in 943 job seekers attending these fairs in search of employment opportunities. The following is the breakdown for the events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th># of Companies</th>
<th># of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third Love</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chico Heat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lulu's</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express Personnel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Taco</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oroville Job Fair</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Health Group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Chance Job Fair- Probation</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Valley Property Owners</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Butte County Labor Market Profile and Industry/Sector Analysis: At the start of the 16/17 year, we presented to the board and provided information on the “State of the Workforce Discussions” that were being hosted by AFWD and NoRTEC. Information from the discussions were used to assist with the development of NoRTEC’s regional workforce plan, which was completed in November of 2016. Both the Regional Plan and the Labor Market Profile for Butte County are available on NoRTEC’s website www.ncen.org.

Conclusion: AFWD is pleased to continue offering Workforce Development services in Butte County and providing valuable services to both businesses and job seekers. All of our efforts are geared towards creating a solid workforce, economic vitality and a stable and prosperous business community throughout Butte County. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (530) 879-3449.

For more information about AFWD activities, please visit our website, www.afwd.org and click on CC Reports. Here you will find quarterly reports for each of AFWD’s county operations.

Thank you for your time.

Luis M. Moreno
Assistant Director