



Employment First Committee Meeting Minutes February 8, 2024

Attending Members

Julie Gaona (SA)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)
Larry Yin (USC)
Christine T. Moody (UCLA)
Cathay Liu (FA)
Nancy Wentling (DOR)
Michael Luna (DDS)
Steve Ruder (UCD)
Sarah Issacs (DRC)
Rithy Hanh (DRC)
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)

Members Absent

None

Others Attending

Beth Hurn
Bridget Kolakosky
Nestor Nieves
Tania Morawiec
Robin Maitino-Erben
Veronica Bravo

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Julie Gaona (SA) called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

5. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2023 MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Witherspoon [SA]/Ruder) and carried to approve the October 2023 meeting minutes as presented. (Passed unanimously with the exception of Michael Luna, Nestor Nieves, Nancy Wentling and Rithy Hanh, who abstained).

6. **UPDATES ON CIE RELATED LEGISLATION AND BUDGET**

SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided a presentation on CIE related legislation and informed the committee that the May budget revise will make the state of California's budget deficit clear. This presentation included an update on AB 222, AB 447, and SCDD's first annual SB 639 Report, which was submitted in January of 2024. The full presentation can be found here:

[https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2024/02/February-8_EFC - Legislative-Update-PPT.pdf](https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2024/02/February-8_EFC_-_Legislative-Update-PPT.pdf).

7. **UPDATE ON PRIORITIES**

Committee member Christine Moody informed the committee that the EFC SMART Goals Workgroup had met between meetings, as directed, to synthesize member feedback and create an initial outline of the 2023 Employment First Report.

8. **2023 EMPLOYMENT FIRST REPORT**

Members reviewed a detailed outline of the 2023 Employment First Report. Members came to a consensus on how to complete the report and assigned volunteers to write their assigned sections before the May 2024 EFC meeting. The outline of the report can be found here: https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2024/02/EFC-SMART_1.19.24-notes2.8.24-Assignments-1.pdf.

9. **DDS UPDATES**

Committee member Michael Luna provided an update on DDS Employment Grants, the Coordinated Career Pathways employment pilot program, and Paid Internship Program and CIE data for FY 2023-24. DDS is conducting analysis of FY 2022-23 employment program data for the Employment Data Dashboard and is in the process of reviewing the Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint Year Five (5) report.

Michael Luna also provided the DDS update in writing, which was posted on the SCDD website as a handout for the meeting. The update can be viewed

here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2024/02/DDS-EFC-Update-2.8.24.pdf>

10. **CIE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORTS UPDATE**

SCDD Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Tania Morawiec provided an update on the continuation of SCDD's Employment Community of Practice (CoP) sessions, which were funded through the National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) Grant. SCDD is working with The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) as they explore funding mechanisms to support best practices in Competitive Integrated Employment services.

Members discussed potential focus areas for future Community of Practice (CoP) sessions and how people with disabilities have utilized microbusinesses to enhance their income. SCDD and subject matter experts are planning a 2-day in person educational session on Systematic Instruction, an identified best practice in optimizing job coaching to foster independence in people with disabilities as they integrate into a new work environment.

Deputy Director Tania Morawiec informed members about work that is being done nationally under behavioral health using the Medicaid waiver to fund CIE strategies and provided a brief update about the development of recommendations for the new Employment First Office under CHHS. Members were informed that the California Workforce Development Board is seeking public comments on its 2024-2027 State Plan.

The presentation slides for this agenda item can be found at the following link: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2024/02/Feb-NEON-2024.pdf>.

11. **MEMBER UPDATES**

There were no member updates.

12. **FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.