

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE:
February 18, 2020

TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:
 Regular Timed
 Consent

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Jim Beard, Chair, District No. 4
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3295

AGENDA ITEM: Mid-year update by the Alliance for Workforce Development on business and job seeker services for program year 2019/2020.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: see attached

FUNDING SOURCE:

GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact

OTHER FUND:

AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?

Yes, -- --
 No

IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? Yes No

IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? Yes No

SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

BOARD ACTION:

- Approved
- Approved as amended
- Adopted
- Adopted as amended
- Denied
- Other
- No Action Taken

- Set public hearing
For: _____
- Direction to: _____
- Referred to: _____
- Continued to: _____
- Authorization given to:

Resolution 2020- _____
 Agreement 2020- _____
 Ordinance _____
 Vote:
 Ayes:
 Noes:
 Abstain:
 Absent:
 By Consensus

COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

DATE



*Alliance For
Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success*

Sierra County
Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.
305 South Lincoln Street
Sierraville, CA 96126
Main: (530) 994-3349
Fax: (530) 994-3368

Sierra County Board of Supervisors – February 18, 2020

Discussion Paper:

Briefing on the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. operations in Sierra County

1. Purpose: It is my pleasure to update the Board on activities at the Alliance for Workforce Development Sierra County One Stop. We are Sierra County's America's Job Center of California (AJCC) provider. Our mission is to provide Businesses and Workers a common access point for employment, training, and other Workforce Services. AFWD delivers federal and state Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs to Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth in Sierra County.

2. Discussion: AFWD is one of four service providers for the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC). We provide workforce development programs and services in six of NoRTEC's 11 counties; Sierra, Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, and Butte. As an AJCC, we maintain a "business first" philosophy, as embraced by NoRTEC and by WIOA legislation. This philosophy emphasizes focus on employer outreach and requires that businesses be in the forefront of our service delivery models.

I would like to thank Supervisor Roan, who continues to represent Sierra County on the NoRTEC Governing Board.

Staff continue to work with local businesses and jobseekers to ensure that employers find the most qualified individuals for the job, and workers obtain sustainable, long term employment. All efforts are tied to enhancing workforce development, promoting economic vitality, and fostering a *stable and prosperous business community* throughout Sierra County.

- We are excited to share that the One Stop located at 305 S. Lincoln Street, Sierraville has new extended hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm. In December we welcomed Debbie Devenzio to the Sierra office as Resource and Referral Coordinator. Debbie is a skilled client services professional who brings a wealth of experience in customer service, networking, stakeholder engagement, and community development to our Sierra County office.
- **Employment Number at a Glance:**
As of December 2019, the **National Unemployment Rate was 3.5%**, the lowest single month since May 1969. The **California Unemployment Rate was 3.9%**, continuing a trend from recent months. **Sierra County's December Unemployment Rate was 4.7%**. This number is up from 4.0% in November, but down from 5.4% in December 2018.

These numbers demonstrate that while employment is somewhat less robust in Rural Northern California than state or nationwide, the positive hiring trends of the broader economy are also reflected locally in Sierra County. While the Rural Northern California employment market faces unique challenges like severe weather conditions and seasonal employment opportunities, AFWD maximizes our positive impacts local employment by aligning our skills trainings, educational programs, and other jobseeker services with the staffing needs of employers who have current openings.

- **Sierra County Customers Served July 1 – December 31, 2019**

From July 1 through December 31 the AFWD Sierra County One Stop served a total of **47 individuals**.

3. Program Highlights:

Businesses Services: AFWD has been able to assist the Sierra County employer community with an array of business services, such as providing human resource information, employee training and assistance with job recruitments. Our Business Service Staff continue to develop new partnerships to facilitate new employment opportunities for Sierra County job seekers. On December 4, Business Service Staff from AFWD Sierra County attended a 2020 Labor Law Update Workshop in Chico, CA, to ensure that we are equipped with the latest changes and updates for the benefit of our Sierra County Business Partners.

Adult/Dislocated Worker/Youth Programs-Training and Supportive Services: AFWD Career Center Advisors support individuals through various client assessments and career exploration processes and assist them in attending classroom training and internships. In addition to internal job search, job readiness and career exploration provided by AFWD Staff, we maintain invaluable partnerships with education and government partners like **Feather River Adult Education, Sierra County, and Feather River College** to provide a broad array of training and skill development services to our clients.

Regional and Countywide Partnerships and Initiatives: AFWD continues to expand, strengthen and develop partnerships in Sierra County to encourage workforce and economic vitality. We continue our partnerships with the **Eastern Sierra Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra County Chamber of Commerce, US Forest Service, CalTrans, the City of Loyalton**, in order to further develop employment and economic development opportunities in Sierra County.

Rapid Response Activities: AFWD staff in Sierra County has begun advertising services and preparing to enroll workers affected by pending layoff from American Renewable Power. We have begun advertising to affected workers through social media and other channels to make them aware of our retraining and reemployment services. We have also been in contact with ARP management, to coordinate the provision of Unemployment Insurance, WIOA enrollment, and general information to workers onsite at the ARP facility.

4. **Conclusion:** AFWD is pleased to continue offering Workforce Development services in Sierra County and to provide critical services to businesses and job seekers. As Sierra County's America's Job Center of California, our mission is to enhance economic vitality by creating a skilled, job-ready workforce and a stable and prosperous business community

throughout Sierra County. We appreciate our partners in the education, public, and private sectors who help make our mission possible, and we appreciate the Board for giving us an opportunity to present today.

For more information about AFWD activities, please visit our website, www.afwd.org where we have also added a **“Chat” feature** and click on CC Reports. Here you will find quarterly reports for each of AFWD’s service counties, and highlights of our work with the community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debbie Devenzio at (530) 994-3349.

Thank you for your time.

Valerie Bourque
Business Services Representative