

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Office of the Director

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WIC Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2025
Via Tele/Videoconference and In-Person

In Attendance:**DIR Staff**

Mark Chekal, Policy Advisor, Director's Office

Romae-Anne Aquino, DAS

Theresa Bichsel, LCO

Adele Burnes, DAS

Jennifer Lim, OEA

Cruz Lisette, DAS

Salvador Rodriguez, OEA

Vanessa Soto, OLRA

Alisa Xiong, OEA

Committee Members:

Ashley Clark, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Teresa Bissell

Mona Gocan, 77 Electrical Services

Terri Golden, Tradeswomen, Inc.

Sheri Learmonth, Marina Mechanical

Ashley Matthews, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

Donna Rehrmann, Stomper Company

Mary Teichert, Teichert Construction

Meg Vasey, National Taskforce on Tradewomen's Issues

Presenters

Kathleen Barber, Strategic Workplace

Alisa Reid, Inyo-Mono Building Trades Council

Jeremy Smith, State Building and Trades Council

I. Welcome and introductions

- A. Attendee management with new access requirement
- B. Salvador Rodriguez reviews agenda
- C. Quorum established
- D. Opening remarks from Mark Chekal

II. Motion made and Committee voted for the approval of the February 2025 Meeting Minutes

- A. Motion to approve the February meeting minutes
- B. Minutes approved by consent

III. Status update on July 2025 – June 2027 (ERiCA) Grants

Adele Burnes, Deputy Chief of Policy, DAS

- A. Update on 23-25 grants:
 - In the evaluation phase for round two of the ERiCA grant
 - Deep in evaluations and working to announce the next round of the ERiCA grants
 - Approximately \$15 million that has historically been allocated towards women in construction remains in the budget for next year, but it's an incredibly tight budget year

IV. Review and discussion of Committee Workplan

- For updates on plan actions and outcomes please see workplan document posted on the [DIR Public Meetings with the Office of the Director](#) website

V. Presentation of pre-apprenticeship program(s) focusing on women in construction

- A. Cruz kicks off and introduces topics
- B. Kathleen Barber presents on outreach and community building
 - Building community practice – sharing best practices for outreach and community building
 - Toolkit developed for practical, boots-on-the-ground guidance
 - Questions and discussion on how to best reach a variety of organizations and difficult to reach communities, including veterans and private contractors

VI. MC3 Presentation

- A. Ashley Matthews presents on Valley Build and VBNow pre-apprenticeship training
 - Six campuses; MC3 content provided by building trades; we partner with affiliates for practical training
 - Questions from members re resources for graduates and success rates
 - Jeremy Smith provides context and highlights working with partners
 - Alisa Reid talks about successful placement and support

- Team shares Valley Build promotional video

VII. Presentation of outreach/marketing content obtained by DIR

- Jennifer Lim and Alisa Xiong share presentation titled WIC First Round Grantee Showcase
- Highlights outreach materials, including educational tools, career videos, outreach events, construction trades workforce initiative, recorded interviews, construction bound women commercials, paid research study, a training fund, public awareness advertising campaign

VIII. Data presentation of # of women/girls/non-binary people in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs

- Adele Burnes presents data from pre-apprenticeship programs in 2024
 - Highlights # of women represented in data across 30 building trades: top, middle and bottom tiers; new registrations by gender
- See Pre-Apprenticeships spreadsheet posted on [DIR Public Meetings with the Office of the Director](#) page

IX. Feedback/Discussion/Advise after presentations

- Committee members praise progress of apprenticeship programs but stress need of further outreach to raise awareness and normalize women and non-binary people in the trades

X. Schedule resources subcommittee meeting

- Agenda: feedback on materials and agenda
- July 7 is set as date for virtual meeting of the subcommittee

XI. Public Comment

- A. No public comments

XII. Conclusion and adjournment

- A. Next meeting set for August 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- B. Meeting adjourned