



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 8, 2012

10am - 3pm

Tulare Ag Commissioner's Auditorium

4437 S. Laspina
Tulare CA 93274

MEETING MINUTES

I. Convene Meeting and Introductory Remarks

The meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was called to order at 10:07 am by Deputy Chair Diana Dooley who welcomed Partnership Board members and guests and initiated introductions around the table. Board members present included James Aleru, Scott Carney (representing Secretary Matthew Cate, CDCR), Judy Case, Dee Dee D'Adamo, Pat Gordon, Dave Long, Luisa Medina, Kurt Schuparra (representing Secretary Morgenstern, LWD), Ray Watson and Pete Weber.

II. Recognition of Sponsors

Members of the audience introduced themselves and the Chair thanked the sponsors of the Board meeting, Tulare County Ag Commissioner, Marilyn Kinoshita and the Tulare County Association of Governments.

III. Public and Board Comment

Ms. D'Adamo reported that she and other members of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) are available to address questions and concerns regarding SB 375 targets.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

In the absence of comments or objections, the minutes were approved as provided.

V. Board Appointments Update

Secretary Dooley reported the Governor's appointments office continues to work on confirming the pending Board appointments.

VI. State Economic Summit Update

Mr. Weber provided a review of the California State Economic Summit¹ and recommended Board members review the Action Plan available online.² Mr. Weber noted that the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) is considering making infrastructure investments in support of access to capital. Ms. Goldsmith extended her

¹ <http://www.caeconomy.org/>

² <http://www.caeconomy.org/blog/entry/summit-action-plan-released-the-work-continues>

thanks to Mr. Weber for the effort and energy he invested in the Economic Summit. Without the Partnership, and Mr. Weber's leadership in this initiative, many of the Valley issues would have been drowned out by the Bay Area and Los Angeles basin constituencies.

VII. CalFresh Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Dennis Stewart, Regional Director, Food Stamp Program, USDA Western Region (USDA), and Ms. Linda Patterson, Chief CalFresh Branch, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provided a joint presentation on the CalFresh program, formerly known as Food Stamps and federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)³. The program issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used to buy most foods at many markets and food stores, helping to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing them a means to meet their nutritional needs.

Mr. Stewart spoke of the economic benefit of the CalFresh program in the San Joaquin Valley, noting that *"...for every federal dollar spent on CalFresh expenditures, \$1.84 in economic activity is generated. Increased participation benefits both recipients of the benefit dollars and the local economy..."* Mr. Stewart outlined numerous additional benefits of the CalFresh program including the generation of incremental economic activity, increased tax revenues, stimulation of local and regional agriculture and lowered costs. Mr. Stewart concluded his presentation with an explanation of the success of the Fresno Bridge Academy Demonstration Project⁴.

Ms. Patterson provided an overview of the CalFresh program and the significant program changes to increase access to the CalFresh Program for our neediest families. Ms. Patterson announced that CDSS is in the process of implementing a CalFresh ReFresh Modernization Initiative, based on suggestions from advocates, counties, and the County Welfare Directors Association. The CalFresh program is being modernized by planning for additional program simplifications and removal of access barriers, reducing administrative complexity, providing stronger support for nutritious food choices and nutrition education, and greater encouragement of other program innovations.

Ms. Patterson concluded her presentation with the comment, "I want to thank all the agencies that work together to provide CalFresh benefits to the most vulnerable children, seniors and adults in our state. It is through your efforts that these households are able to have greater access to healthy food during these harsh economic times".

At the conclusion, Mr. Stewart and Ms. Patterson invited members of the panel and interested parties in the audience to join them in a separate discussion of key elements of the CalFresh ReFresh initiatives.

Deputy Chair Dooley observed that the State level streamlining effort is being recognized. The fraud and investigative processes did not have a cost-benefit relationship so things like fingerprinting were abandoned, the agencies are taking an attitude of maintaining integrity and ensuring funds are used for the purpose intended.

³ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Legislation/about.htm>

⁴ <http://www.scribd.com/doc/6356388/The-Bridge-Academy-Sept-2008>

Ms. Phyllis Grupe spoke of the Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin⁵ (CPFSJ) which, since 1998, has partnered with neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, and public and private health agencies to improve the quality of life of families by working to end the vicious cycle of generational poverty that has plagued San Joaquin County. CPFSJ works closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and food sources in the San Joaquin Valley and has a new opportunity to get food stamp information out to the community⁶ in an integrated services endeavor funded by Kaiser Permanente.

Deputy Chair Dooley noted that Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has made food access a priority of hers, especially to low income communities, stating that benefits to the state are so numerous it is a no-brainer to increase participation in CalFresh. Secretary Ross is notably encouraged by the successes in the San Joaquin Valley, particularly given the most successful ones driven from within the community.

The CDFA is working on a California Healthy Food Financing Initiative to increase food access throughout the state (AB581⁷). This bill creates, until January 1, 2015, the California Healthy Food Financing Initiative which states, in part, "Access to healthy food items is a basic human right," and aims to eliminate food deserts. AB 581 has the potential to bring more grocery stores and farmers markets to cities and rural areas and can potentially provide start-up funding to fresh food vendors. An increase in locally-owned food businesses and living-wage jobs will alleviate the disparities of access to healthy food.

Ms. Medina commended Secretaries Ross and Dooley for their efforts to break the barriers, noting this is a very humane thing to do and will result in increased applications, especially for rural populations.

Mr. Weber interjected that this is a good jumping-off point for the breakout discussion requested by Mr. Stewart and Ms. Patterson to work on action plans to address some of the issues that have been highlighted in this presentation

1. Stimulating the Valley economy through full utilization of CalFresh (or preventing losses if there are Congressional cuts).
2. Increasing the linkage between CalFresh and the Valley agricultural value chain.
3. Reduction of administrative costs.
4. Expanded programs to move people to self-reliance.
5. Pilot projects to enhance the health outcomes of CalFresh.

At this time, the presenters and interested parties adjourned to a separate meeting room to conduct their discussion.

VIII. County Panel

Short Haul Rail Update

Supervisor Allen Ishida provided an update on the Short Line Rail in Tulare County and the potential for a short line rail as System in the San Joaquin Valley. The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is currently focused on two key issues: Right of Way

⁵ <http://www.cpfjs.org/index.html>

⁶ http://www.sjcphs.org/assets/News%20Release%2072%20Store%20Improvement%2011_3_11.pdf

⁷ http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_0551-0600/ab_581_bill_20110711_amended_sen_v97.html

Preservation and Track Upgrade. Characterized as Effort One, TCAG is focusing on negotiation with UP to buy the land then lease it to the SVRR as operator and preservation of ROW: Rails to Trails, Bicycle Paths, Pedestrian walkways future passenger rail and rail services. Effort Two for TCAG is Track Upgrade which is anticipated in phases.

An Education and Transportation Partnership: the COS Transit Pass

Ms. Christine Chavez provided a review of the Tulare County College Transit Study,⁸ which was designed to analyze existing transit service to and from college campuses; evaluate the trial student pass program, plan for transit to College of the Sequoias Tulare Campus and review the potential for programs at Reedley and Porterville Colleges.

In January 2012, the trial student pass program was declared a great success and subsequent developments include Porterville and Reedley considering similar programs and the development of a Tulare Campus Transit Center to implement new TIME (Route 7) and TCAT) (Route 40) service to Tulare Campus in January 2013.⁹

Marijuana Efforts in Tulare County

Captain Mike “Hopper” Boudreaux, Investigations, Tulare County Sheriff’s Department presented an overview of the impact of medical marijuana on the health, safety and law enforcement efforts in Tulare County.

Noting a rise in marijuana cultivation on the valley floor and a noticeable drop in cultivation in the hills and mountainous areas, Captain Boudreaux cited the loosely written law, the ease of cultivation under the guise of medicinal marijuana, and available water sources in the valley.

Grow sites in back yards or within agricultural crops are not new to the Marijuana Suppression Team, but the scale of the grow sites and the loopholes these drug cartels are using are on the rise. The Marijuana Suppression Team has begun to track grow sites and medical referrals being used within the county. Following the paper trails found at the grow sites has led to multiple arrests and to other grow sites allowing detectives to connect cases. In conclusion Captain Hopper noted the health-related impacts of marijuana use; 3-4 Cannabis cigarettes a day are associated with the same evidence of acute and chronic bronchitis and the same degree of damage to the bronchial mucosa as 20 or more tobacco cigarettes a day. In addition, smoked marijuana damages the brain, heart, lungs, and immune system. It impairs learning and interferes with memory, perception, and judgment. Smoked marijuana contains cancer-causing compounds and has been implicated in a high percentage of automobile crashes and workplace accidents.

IX. Valley Legacy Update

Dr. Marcy Masumoto provided the final review of the Valley Legacy grant with a detailed presentation of the history, activities, lessons learned and the overall successes of the grant.

Mr. Schuparra commended Dr. Masumoto and the Valley Legacy efforts, noting that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development is currently doing road trips around the state to find out about programs like this. Mr. Schuparra noted a concerted push by the current Administration to do major realignment to bring fiscal decision making to a more

⁸ To find a copy of the Tulare County Community College Transit Study, visit TulareCOG.org

⁹ For more details on Tulare County transit services visit GoTulareCounty.com

local level and noted the ongoing concern about schools abandoning career technical education even though not all students are appropriately college-bound.

X. Statewide Water Initiative

Mr. Green provided an update on the Statewide Water Initiative¹⁰. Mr. Watson reflected that often he hears people comment that they "...don't know much about water..." and he can confirm this. Survey data regarding the California Water Bond initiative shows that 70% of Californians don't know where their water comes from. Mr. Watson provided a review of the Partnership's involvement with water issues dating all the way back to the original Strategic Action Proposal (SAP) work plan through the development of Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) and to major levee enhancements in the Delta.

XI. Smart Valley Places: Tulare County Update

Mr. KIELTY, Building and Planning Director for the City of Tulare, provided an update on the groundbreaking efforts of the City and citizens to plan for a new type of development that will create walkable, bikeable, neighborhoods with easy access to bus service. The Tulare Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Plan provides direction on how the City can encourage transit-friendly land uses to make it easier for residents to walk or bike to meet some of their daily needs. The City of Tulare is a member of the Smart Valley Places partnership, a consortium of cities, government agencies, and non-government organizations throughout the San Joaquin Valley. In 2010, the Smart Valley Places partnership received a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement smart growth goals at the local level. The City of Tulare used its portion of the grant funding to prepare this TOD Plan. The plan is available online at: http://www.ci.tulare.ca.us/pdfs/departments/planning/TularTOD_PublicReview_072612_reduced.pdf

XII. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

This update was included in the Short Haul Rail update.

XIII. San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative

Ms. Audino updated the Board on the activities of the SJV Housing Collaborative, including the approval of amended bylaws and preparation for a Foreclosure Assistance and Recovery Workshop in August.

XIV. Work Group Updates and Secretariat Report

No questions from the Board on the contents of the packet provided prior to the meeting.

XV. Public and Board Comment

Dr. Goldsmith stated that she had sent a text message about the success of the Valley Legacy programs to the incoming president of Modesto Junior College and learned that she has already scheduled meetings to pursue funding of similar programs.

¹⁰ <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/>

Scott Carney (CDCR) announced his intention to provide the Partnership with information on the California New Start program¹¹. CDCR is setting a high priority on linking inmate training programs to jobs in the community. The primary goal of CDCR's California New Start – Prison-to-Employment Program is to improve the employability of offenders leaving California prisons, to increase the likelihood that they will secure and retain gainful employment upon reentry to their communities, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The partnership between CDCR, the Employment Development Department and the California Workforce Investment Board will further these goals.

Ms. Case stressed the importance of Cal Fresh and local food support programs to address the obesity issues seen around the Valley and applauded the connection with Executive Order B-19-12 to establish a Let's Get Healthy California Task Force. The task force is charged with developing a 10-year plan for improving the health of Californians, controlling health care costs, promoting personal responsibility for individual health, and advancing health equity by establishing baselines for key health indicators, identifying obstacles to better care, making fiscally prudent recommendations, and establishing a framework for measuring improvements¹².

XVI. Adjournment

In the absence of any further public or board comment the meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

¹¹ http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Community_Partnerships/index.html

¹² <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/HealthCalTaskforce.aspx>