



Meeting of the Board of Directors

DRAFT

Friday, March 18, 2016
10am – 3pm

Merced College Business Resource Center
630 W. 19th Street
Merced, CA 95340

I. Convene Meeting – Introductory Remarks

The first quarter 2016 meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley was called to order by Chair Ashley Swearengin at 10:09am and introductions were made around the board table and from community guests in the room.

Board members present were: James Aleru, Lynne Ashbeck, Vito Chiesa, Elaine Craig, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Secretary Diana Dooley, Lee Ann Eager, John Eisenhut, Bryn Forhan, Mike Gallo, Andrew Genasci, Pat Gordon, Harold Hanson, Genoveva Islas, Carlton Jones, Dan Leavitt, Dorothy Leland, Luisa Medina, David Nelson, Suzi Picaso, Billy Powell, Francisco Ramirez, Mary Renner, Max Rodriguez, Secretary Karen Ross, Luis Santana, Ted Smalley, Ashley Swearengin.

Board Deputies present were Albert Rivas from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Jim Suennen from California Health and Human Services.

Partnership Board Advisory members present were Larry Martin and Robert Tse.

II. Recognition of Sponsors and Dignitaries - Welcome

Thank you to our meeting sponsors and facility hosts: Becky Barabe, Terry Plett, Jennifer Henmi at Merced College provided the meeting venue and Chancellor Leland, Cori Lucero and Miguel Lopez from UC Merced provided the coffee and lunch for the meeting.

The Board and guests present were welcomed to the community of Merced by Chancellor Dorothy Leland. Chancellor Leland announced the upcoming groundbreaking for a new building in downtown Merced which is expected to bring about 500 additional employees into the downtown area.

III. Oath of Office

Secretary Diana Dooley administered the oath of office to the following re-appointed board members: Andrew Genasci, Raymond "Pat" Gordon, Genoveva Islas, Carlton Jones, Suzi Picaso, Billy Powell, Francisco

Ramirez, Mary Renner, Secretary Karen Ross and Luis Santana. Also reappointed but absent from the meeting was Joe Oliveira.

Secretary Dooley thanked Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary for external Affairs at California Health and Human Services Agency who worked to coordinate with the Executive Committee and Governor Brown's appointment office to have these appointments completed when they were needed.

IV. Public and Board Comment

Jim Suennen spoke about California's Earned Income Tax Credit, stating that over 202,000 eligible families have already filed their income taxes claiming their tax credit and nearly 5,000 have taken advantage of the free volunteer tax preparation assistance. The Governor's office has asked our agencies to engage in collaboration with a variety of different groups. Materials were made available at the front tables to distribute to organizations that can contribute to this effort.

Board Deputy Albert Rivas from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation gave an update to the board on how his organization has helped to get the word out about the California EITC by distributing the fliers.

Luis Santana recognized founding board member Pete Weber who received a 2016 Leadership Award from the James Irvine Foundation for his work with Fresno Bridge Academy.

Robert Tse, State Broadband Coordinator Chief Strategy Officer for Agriculture Technology and Innovation USDA CA Rural Development, issued a request to the board for a letter of support for a national science foundation grant application. This grant would be used to help bring the new rural urban connections model – which is used to calculate the true economic value of farmland – to the state.

There were no objections to providing the letter of support for the grant and the motion passed.

V. Consent Calendar

Mike Dozier reminded board members to submit their 2015 Annual Form 700 Conflict of Interest Forms by the April 1, 2016, due date. Each board member already received a reminder and instructions via email.

Luis Santana moved to accept the consent calendar as published. Carlton Jones seconded and the motion passed.

VI. CTE School Opening Fall 2018

This item was removed from the agenda and is expected to be resubmitted for the 2016 4th quarter board meeting on December 2.

VII. Lumina Foundation Goal 2025

Cheri Cruz, Interim Director of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium gave a brief background of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium and its relationship to the Partnership. The board is made up of college leaders of the Central Valley and includes Dr. Carole Goldsmith and Dr. Dorothy Leland from the Partnership board.

Ms. Cruz discussed the Lumina Foundation Goal 2025 initiative and asked board members to pledge their support of this program with the goal to increase the proportion of Americans with postsecondary education to 60% by the year 2025. Also showcased was a project that she worked on with board member Elaine Craig – a youth project that fits under the umbrella of Goal 2025. The links to videos from this presentation can be found on the Partnership website.

VIII. Health Priority

Board member Genoveva Islas, Program Director of Cultiva La Salud, shared with the board some of her personal and family experience of health disparities and inequity in the San Joaquin Valley and presented the Health white paper to the board. The Partnership Board approved the proposal to add Health back as a priority to the work of the organization.

Ms. Islas spoke about the alarming statistics on diabetes in the valley and how so many people are suffering as a result of their limited access to quality health care and in many cases, access to healthier food choices. Due to the fact that drinking water costs the same or more than sodas, people need to be more incentivized to purchase drinking water. The produce grown locally should be available at all the same access points that the unhealthy alternatives. We' may be tying the hands of our public health departments by not properly funding them.

Partnerships in health, government, business and education are needed for these issues to be addressed. Ms. Islas pointed out that we can't have a prosperous economy without a functioning workforce. If our children aren't healthy and ready to learn we can't advance in terms of increasing our educational achievement. [Download the Health white paper](#)

Board member Mary Renner acknowledged that it was Ms. Islas who did the bulk of the work on the white paper. She added that as we talk about health and us needing to look at health in all policies it is important to note that "Health" is not "Health Care." Ms Renner asked the Partnership to support looking at Health in all policies while making decisions and have Health added back as a priority.

Board member Lynne Ashbeck also thanked Ms. Islas for her hard work on the white paper and said that she believes it is an important position for the Partnership to take as it requires collaboration to make changes. It will take all of us to change the dynamics of health in our community. The timing may be better now for a collective effort around health.

Secretary Diana Dooley spoke about the white paper highlighting policy which is now being talked about and decisions should be made and suggests that we draw health to the attention of decision makers and use it as a filter that we look through.

Secretary Karen Ross agreed that Health should be a priority of the Partnership because of the way it weaves into everything and would love to see nutrition on every page, because if we grow it here we should make sure that every person who is a part of that can benefit from it. Secretary Ross further spoke about the healthy food finance initiative and that this year the funding may be renewed. This year there is a chance for the Partnership to help make it work in the Valley. There is also a controversial proposal of a tax on sugary drinks and it was proposed have a discussion on that at a later date.

A motion was made by Lynne Ashbeck to adopt health as a priority of the Partnership. The motion was seconded by Amarpreet Dhaliwal and was approved by the board.

Chair Swearingin suggested to the Executive Staff that a letter be sent to every city and every county in the Valley updating them that the Partnership has adopted this white paper and point out the resources in the areas that are available to help local governments embrace the concepts that are recommended and reinforce the resources that exist.

IX. Cultiva La Salud

Genoveva Islas was joined by Kathleen Grassi, Director of Merced County Department of Public Health and Jose Ruiz-Salas, Administrative Specialist, Tulare County Health Department to present information to the Partnership about Cultiva La Salud, a program which is dedicated to helping residents of the Central Valley to cultivate healthy lifestyles.

The program was formerly known as the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP). Cultiva La Salud, which means "cultivate health", is a program of Public Health Institute. Some of the community changes it has helped to foster include: establishing farmers markets, community gardens and school farm stands in low-income neighborhoods with limited access to healthy foods, supporting small convenience stores in their conversion to healthy stores and advocating for policies that dis-incentivize unhealthy food and beverage retail.

Partners of Cultiva La Salud include the Public Health Institute, the Delores Huerta Foundation, Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children and the Samuel Center for Public Health Research and Evaluation.

Download the following presentations:

[Cultivating Health Equity in California's Central Valley](#), Genoveva Islas, Cultiva La Salud
[Partnerships to Improve Community Health](#), Kathleen Grassi, Merced County Public Health
[Communities in Action: Lifetime of Wellness](#), Jose Ruiz-Salas, Tulare County Public Health

X. LUNCH

XI. UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program

The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Fresno Medical Education program was discussed by Dr. Michael W. Peterson, Interim Associate Dean and Chief of Medicine. Dr. Peterson spoke about education in healthcare and the fact that because medicine is forever changing and keeping physicians educated in these changes is a critical role. An academic medical program needs to provide clinical care, medical education, research and community engagement.

Dr. Peterson's presentation briefly outlined the steps of training a doctor, a listing of current residencies and current fellowships in the community, a history of UCSF and an overview of clinical services and the vision for the future. [Download Dr. Petersen's presentation](#)

XII. Brief Drought Update

Secretary Karen Ross reported that the drought updates aren't coming as frequently now because Shasta is full and is now in flood management. Yesterday in the news it was reported that the state water project updated its allocations there will be more water transfers. Track California Water Fix at californiawaterfix.com – a very active site about fixing the water conveyance issue in California. Had California Water Fix been in place before the last storm we would have been able to divert peak storm flows into storage for more than 500,000 acre feet.

Secretary Ross commended Fresno and Merced for beating the 25% mandatory urban conservation levels last year. While the State Water Board announced that there will be some relaxation, water conservation continues. People want to see what plan will better inform their government structure and there is a need to arrest subsidence in the valley.

Secretary Ross also commented on how agriculture added jobs in the midst of the drought.

XIII. Partnership Strategic Efforts: Regional Industry Cluster Initiative (RICI)

Mike Dozier Introduced OCED's Industrial Development Manager, Karmjot Grewal, to deliver a status report on the Regional Industry Clusters Initiative (RICI) and how the ability to collaborate has benefitted by the clusters. Ms. Grewal was joined by Becky Barabe, Director of Business, Industry and Community Services at Merced College and board member Pat Gordon of JBT FoodTech.

OCED was awarded the EDA Economic Adjustment Grant in August 2011 to support improved regional economic performance, sustainability and shared opportunity for Valley residents, businesses and communities.

Ms. Grewal spoke about the recent Ag Cluster meeting attended by Raw Fresno, a new success story coming out of the Valley. They have a food truck now and are looking to expand more into a restaurant.

They donate food products and make presentations to the local schools so that students can learn where their food comes from. The farm to fork program has been making a great deal of progress.

The Energy Cluster is raising scholarship money for high school students to attend technical or trade schools, community colleges and four-year universities to have careers in sustainable energy. Networking with the cluster has helped students find jobs right out of school. April 8, 2016 is the Clean Energy Cluster Summit Scholarship Awards to be held at Fresno Pacific University, Visalia Center.

The Health and Wellness Cluster has held high-level meetings to promote consistent and regionalized standards and curricula and transferability of credits from health care programs in different institutions. Cluster members include Partnership board members Mary Renner and Lynn Ashbeck.

The Manufacturing Cluster membership has grown by 200% thanks to Mike Betts, Ron Heskett and Pat Gordon. October has been designated as Manufacturing Month in all eight San Joaquin Valley counties. Pat Gordon spoke about the March 3, 2016, Manufacturing Summit which was a big success with a great turnout and good representation. He believed it to be an amazing collaborative with tremendous opportunity for sharing.

The Water Cluster has been moving along with a focus on water technology to broaden the focus of research and development for diverse water supply and quality across a range of industries.

MEWA is the Supercluster which meets each quarter to discuss the work of each cluster during the previous quarter and share what can be expected moving forward. The cluster chairs meet to discuss areas of cross-cluster collaboration. [Download RICI Strategic Efforts Report](#)

XIV. Shelter and Mobility Report – Farmworker Issues

This item removed from the agenda.

XV. Public and Board Comment and Meeting Feedback

Board member Lynne Ashbeck commented that she was appointed to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission by Governor Brown as the only representative from the San Joaquin Valley. Ms. Ashbeck suggested that Mental Health work be considered as a future Partnership meeting presentation from the staff of that commission.

Mike Dozier announced that the Partnership Summit this year has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2016, in Fresno.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.