



**MEETING MINUTES**

Video Conference Locations:

**Mother Lode Workforce  
Development Board**

**Amador Prosperity Center**  
1 Prosperity Court  
Sutter Creek, CA 95686

Thursday, August 15, 2019 12:00 pm

**Mother Lode Job Training Career Center**  
197 Mono Way, Suite B, Sonora, CA 95370

**MLJT Job Center**  
5362 Lemee Lane  
Mariposa, CA 95338

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.1. Roll call / Establish quorum

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present?</b>	<b>Absent?</b>
Bill Petrone		X
Brandon Price		X
Cathy Parker	X	
Crystal Jack		X
Debra Rockwood	X	
Frank Leschinsky	X	
Kathryn Gallino		X
Mahalia Gotico - <i>Represented by Alt. Robert Hernandez</i>	X	
Mark Luster		X
Michelle Watkins	X	
Mike Lemke		X
LaChelle Adams	X	
Scott Fiester	X	
Scott Nanik	X	
Steve Woodward		X
Tim Hildabrand (Vice Chair)	X	
Tyler Newton (Chair)		X
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Rebecca Espino, Tuolumne DSS	X	
LaChelle Adams, EDD	X	
<b>Staff</b>		
Dave Thoeny	X	
Amy Torres	X	
Lisa Edwards	X	
Kelly Smith	X	
<b>Guests</b>		
Marshall Long	X	
Kristina Cukar	X	
Nati Martinez	X	

1.2. Introduce guests

*Introduction of guests Marshall Long from Mariposa County, Kristina Cukar from Chicken Ranch Casino and Nati Martinez from the Employment Development Department (EDD).*

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

2.1. Accept the May 16, 2019 meeting minutes

*Minutes accepted (M) R. Hernandez (S) S. Nanik ayes carried, 8 absent.*

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*None*

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

4.1. Approve the Self-Sufficiency Standard for the Mother Lode Workforce Development Area

*Item moved to next meeting date.*

**5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5.1. Featured MLJT staff: Serena Orman-Ochs

*Serena was first hired on a year ago as a Resource Specialist and is now the Program Analyst for the agency. Her attention to detail and strategic thinking processes have made her a valuable addition to the MLJT project management team. As a Tuolumne County resident of 25 years, Serena is an actively involved member of the local community.*

5.2. MLJT operational restructuring: Dave Thoeny

*D. Thoeny addressed the board on this matter. He described the old operational structure of MLJT and the new structure. Dave explained how the new structure now allows for certain employees to focus strictly on project management so others can focus on clients and programs. D. Thoeny also expressed how the new structure has helped to inspire teamwork, fill in gaps and encourage new skill growth among staff.*

5.3. Grant update: Amy Torres

*Amy Torres, MLJT Project Manager, informed the board of MLJT's recently awarded grants. Regional Plan Implementation 2.0 (\$150k), the Opioid Crisis Grant (\$512k) and the Prison to Employment grant (\$1.3M). She explained that as a result of the Regional Plan Implementation grant thus far, MLJT has created two additional quarterly meeting groups, the Workforce Innovation Council and the Mother Lode Healthcare Industry Partnership. While existing boards support key functions and objectives from governance to operations, the Workforce Innovation Council's purpose is to convene "thought leaders" and "change agents" from the region to assist the agency in strengthening our capacity to innovate on key issues and concerns. Amy also notified the board that in June, a Mother Lode Healthcare Industry Partnership (M-HIP) launch brought together a diverse group of healthcare organizations in the region. The purpose of the M-HIP is to assist in identifying common opportunities and potential areas for collective action amongst businesses in the Healthcare industry sector. Next, Amy shared that the goal of the Opioid Crisis grant is to reintegrate long term unemployed workers into the workforce that have also been affected by the Opioid Crisis. The Opioid Crisis grant will allow MLJT to provide temporary job assignments, on-the-job training, training, certifications and various support services. Lastly, Dave reminded the board of the recent Prison to Employment (P2E) grant, which is aimed at using workforce development to reduce recidivism rates amongst the labor force. This grant will have two areas of focus, assisting both Pre and Post- release inmates. Services supported by the P2E grant include Direct*

*Services, such as job search and vocational training, and Support Services such as childcare, transportation and housing. Other initiatives as a result of the P2E grant involve a formal handoff to and from probation or parole and a statewide pilot video that will be showed in the prison system to inform individuals of their options for employment upon preparation of release.*

5.4. Demo of new MLJT website: Kelly Smith

*Kelly addressed the board on this matter, expressing the importance of creating a resource that could be a useful tool for Job Seekers, Employers and Partners. She led the board through a quick tour, demonstrating the “Virtual Job Board” page, which links to a regional community Facebook page where job seekers can preview open positions for the Mother Lode Region and Employers can post their open positions. K. Smith also demonstrated the “Success Stories” page, which showcases video testimonials from individuals that have had success finding work through MLJT. The new site allows members of the public to request information about services directly from corresponding staff, which has allowed for more efficient communication with the community. Progress can be seen at: [www.mljt.org](http://www.mljt.org)*

**6. NEXT MEETING(S)**

Thursday, November 21, 2019 12:00 pm

**7. ADJOURN**