

Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 12, 2020 3:00 PM  
Mountain

Zoom  
525 Camino De Los Marquez  
Suite 250  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Rebecca Estrada:	Excused
Rudy Garcia:	Present
Tomas Garcia:	Present
Vince Howell:	Present
Sean Medrano:	Present
Jon Paul Romero:	Absent
Rock Ulibarri:	Present
Joseph Weathers:	Present

Present:6, Absent:2.

**Also in attendance: NALWDB Staff:** Lisa Ortiz - Executive Director, Barney Trujillo - Operations Manager, Deborah Wildenstein – Program Monitor, Amber Gomez – Project Specialist/Communications **Guests:** Margarito Aragon – DWS, Veronica Alonzo - DWS, Michelle Velarde – DWS, Sandoval – Zlotnick Laws Sandoval, Eric Vasquez – One-Stop Operator, Roger Gonzales – HELP NM, Teresa Quintana – HELP NM, Ann Black - SFCC

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03PM by Chairman Joseph Weathers.

#### 2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll call was made by NALWDB Project Specialist/Communications, Amber Gomez, who indicated that a quorum was present.

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

#### 4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Vince Howell and seconded by Tomas Garcia, passed by unanimous vote.

#### 5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve October 7, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes. This motion, made by Sean Medrano and seconded by Vince Howell, passed by unanimous vote.

#### 6. Action Items

##### 6.1 H-1 B One Workforce Grant Program - Letter of Support Approval

Madam Executive Director informed the committee that about two weeks ago the Central Board reached out to us asking for a letter of support. They also reached out to SFCC, San Juan College, and LANL which are all located in the northern region. The Central Board would like the Northern Board to commit to a participant workforce connection of a central

New Mexico H-1 B workforce grant. This grant is to provide training to unemployed workers in New Mexico for the H-1 B jobs in the IT industry.

Chairman Weathers stated that he was under the impression that that they had met recently.

Barney Trujillo clarified that they had met last week with Art from the central area. There was some correspondence that went back about two or three weeks in terms of the schools that are participating in our region. Mr. Trujillo mentioned that those schools are also participating in another grant application a workforce local area based out of California. There are two separate grant applications, the one from the Central Board and the local board from California which kind of goes into a little bit more engineering and help with mathematics. Mr. Trujillo mentioned that we were kind of a little late in terms of being engaged in the process and involvement, however ultimately it's up to the Board for approval.

Rock Ulibarri stated that all the places mentioned are located in the northern region. Mr. Ulibarri then asked if the Central Board had reached out for a collaboration prior to this application.

Madam Executive Director informed Mr. Ulibarri that the Central Board had reached out a couple weeks ago, which is why this meeting was scheduled so that the executive committee could have a discussion on this matter. Mrs. Ortiz stated that the central area should have had a discussion with us prior to submitting the grant, because they were focusing on the northern region.

Mr. Ulibarri stated that not only should they have informed us about the grant they should have reached out to the Northern Board for collaboration. He asked if they invited us to be apart of this effort. Mrs. Ortiz explained that's why they're asking for a letter of support from the Northern Board. Chairman Weathers added that he reached out to Art to attend this meeting to answer some of the questions the committee may have.

Chairman Weathers asked Ms. Black if she could inform the committee of when the Central Board reached out to Santa Fe Community College.

Ms. Black informed Chairman Weathers that about three and a half weeks ago she had a discussion with CNM. Not long after that conversation it was confirmed that they wanted SFCC to join in with them. Ms. Black stated that she believes that the grant came out about 60 days ago. She mentioned that she spoke with their grant writer, and they had some last-minute additions to folks they're working with in the southern region as well.

Chairman Weathers asked Ms. Black if she understood how the Board works and the ten counties the Board represents. Ms. Black stated that she has a general idea of how a board operates and the areas the Board represents. although she doesn't have a clear understanding of the Boards internal decision making and procedures relating to grants.

Chairman Weathers stated that we weren't reached out to in a timely matter and he feels that they should have tried to collaborate with us. Mr. Weathers asked Ms. Black, from his understanding SFCC spoke with CNM first and then CNM reached out to the Central Board and finally the Central Board reached out to SFCC.

Ms. Black stated at the time she was working with CNM on a different Department of Labor grant, and that's when she expressed SFCC's interest to partner on the grant. At that point in

time, they weren't even sure if the Central Board was on board with applying. She mentioned that many grants have a short turnaround time and a lot of partners and there isn't a lot of time to get everyone on the same page. She stated that they were just trying to be as flexible and responsive as possible for the grant. Ms. Black also expressed her interest in working with the Northern Board and SFCC would like to partner on future DOL grants and start conversations about future funding during the next six-eight months.

Mr. Ulibarri expressed that he wouldn't feel comfortable if the extent of the Northern Board's collaboration is just showing support rather than directly being involved.

Madam Executive Director stated that she believes that the Northern Board would be listed in the and we would provide training to about 90 participants at San Juan college and 320 at Santa Fe Community College. Ms. Black clarified that they reduced their participation down to about 250.

Roger Gonzales clarified that there are two H-1 B proposals the one from Alameda Workforce Development in California and the one from the Central Board and SFCC is part of the cohort for both proposals. Mr. Gonzales informed the committee that his agency has submitted their support for both proposals. He mentioned that the Alameda proposal includes four of the institutes within the northern territory, SFCC, UNMLA, SJC, and NNMC. This grant would allow around \$4 million paid internship dollars in that region. Mr. Gonzales stated that during his conversation with Art about the Central New Mexico grant he mentioned that there may be an opportunity for the Northern Board to serve as a physically different part of the funds and the possibly leveraging funds.

Vince Howell asked Ms. Black where the 200 plus participants for this program are from. Ms. Black stated that the estimated 220 participants for this program was based on the enrollment of their IT program. Mr. Howell asked if those participants are strictly from Santa Fe. Ms. Black stated that most of the participants are from Santa Fe County and the northern area. Mr. Howell asked if the northern area includes the San Miguel and Gallup County area. Ms. Black clarified that some students travel from Rio Arriba, Bernalillo, and Sandoval County, however primarily the students are from Santa Fe County.

Mr. Howell asked if Luna Community College will be involved in this grant as a training facility and if not was there a reason. Ms. Black explained that it's her understanding that Luna Community College was not involved in this application. She stated that SFCC was simply asked to be a partner they weren't the ones driving the development of these applications.

Roger Gonzales stated that he was informed that the institutions that were chosen for both cohorts currently have programs and partnerships with both Sandia and Los Alamos National laboratories. Those pre-approved programs lead to employment, and any institutions who wants to join must demonstrate their ability to create a program that will result in the capacity and the competencies reached for employment Mr. Howell aske if Luna Community College was informed about those requirements. Mr. Gonzales stated that Luna Community College was non-responsive.

Chairman Weathers stated that it's his understanding that they reached out to San Juan College in Santa Fe Community College. The main issue is that they reached out to two institutions in our 10-county region without informing us prior to making those actions. Mr. Weathers

reminded the committee of a similar grant that was applied for by the State Board. The State reached out to the Northern Board for a collaboration and it was passed at the Local Board level as well as the State Board level. Chairman mentioned that he asked Deputy Secretary Yolanda Montoya-Cordova why the Northern Board wasn't informed that they were reaching out to institutions in our region or if we would like to collaborate in this effort. He stated that he also asked Mrs. Cordova why this grant wasn't a State Board initiative rather than coming from the Central Board. The State's stance on this matter is they're not endorsing it, however they're not opposing it. He agreed that that's the direction that the Northern Board should take as well.

Rudy Garcia stated that he would like to take the direction the Chairman and he is willing to make a motion. Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Garcia that the decision must be made by the entire executive committee.

Tomas Garcia made a motion to not endorse but also not oppose as well.

Sean Medrano asked what's the ramifications if we don't endorse this grant.

Barney Trujillo informed Mr. Medrano that there are no ramifications. He also informed Mr. Medrano that there is a lot of money to go around on the H-1 B Grant. Mr. Trujillo mentioned that the money is not going to be based just off WIOA and it's going to service individuals within the northern region. Unfortunately, the Northern Board wasn't invited to participate in a partnership during the application process.

Mr. Howell asked if the committee chooses not to endorse this grant proposal, then a lot of the 10 counties we serve will be left is that correct? Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Howell that he is correct. Chairman Weathers also mentioned that the Central Board expressed in their Local Area Designation that they would like to expand their service area to include Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Valencia, and Dona Ana County. There is still a possibility that the State will reduce the number of Local Boards from four to two Boards, a rural Board and an Urban Board. By allowing the Central Board to partner with institutions from the northern region without informing the Northern Board makes this argument stronger.

Motion to table this item. This motion, made by Rock Ulibarri and seconded by Rudy Garcia, passed by unanimous vote.

## 6.2 H-1 B One Workforce Grant Program MOU between Central and Partners

Madam Executive Director stated that she believes that we covered both the grants and the MOU, therefore the MOU will be tabled as well.

Chairman Weathers invited Ms. Black to collaborate with the NALWDB in future grant applications and allow the Northern Board to assist in the grant process to strengthen the document. Ms. Black stated that they will be collaborating with the Northern Board in the future. She also mentioned that she'll be in touch with the Northern Board about an upcoming apprenticeship grant coming out sometime this winter and schools within the northern region have already expressed interest in partnering with SFCC on that application.

Mr. Howell asked if there needed to be a separate motion for the MOU. Chairman Weathers stated that without approval of the letter the MOU can't be approved.

#### 7. New Business

Madam Executive Director stated that the first quarterly report is due on Monday. She mentioned her and the staff are working together with HELP New Mexico our new provider.

#### 8. Old Business

There was no old business.

#### 9. Informational Reports

There were no informational reports.

#### 10. Public Comments

#### 11. Next Meeting Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### 12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 3:32PM. This motion, made by Sean Medrano and seconded by Vince Howell, passed by unanimous vote.