

Community Coordinator Report

Sierra County

APRIL - JUNE
2017

California Transition Alliance

On June 15, 2017 Youth Career Advisors from Alliance for Workforce Development Inc.'s (AFWD) six counties were treated to training from the California Transition Alliance. Sue Sawyer and Vicki Shadd, both industry professionals with extensive histories advocating for secondary transition for youth with disabilities led the workshop. Partnering agencies from the local colleges, high schools, and social services joined the workshop.

Sue and Vicki reviewed the challenges that Generation Z face and discussion ensued on how to tackle these obstacles. The effects of poverty as it pertains to transitional youth was also discussed. If basic needs of vulnerable youth are not met, it is incredibly challenging to focus on employment. Youth that face severe poverty generally lack the connectivity that helps with work retention as they are often consistently moving and changing schools. These youth need help developing resiliency and looking for alternative supports.

Disability categories such as sensory, mobility, language/communication, health, behavioral, and learning were also reviewed. Youth with these challenges have a period of self-discovery when they need to learn to self-advocate and connect with people to discover required and available support systems.

Lastly, the trainers reviewed brain development and how the frontal lobe, which controls executive functions, does not fully develop until the age of 24, therefore it is not surprising that youth have difficulties making important educational and employment decisions.

The workgroup enjoyed a lively discussion and conversations centered on best practices and personal successes. All agreed that they are looking forward to future trainings that are planned from the Transition-Alliance.



Breaking Barriers - Making Connections



Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Business Services team was in attendance at the 2017 Building Workforce Partnerships conference held in Costa Mesa. The conference's theme was Breaking Barriers - Making Connections, Building a Middle-Class Economy for All.

Business Service Representatives (BSR) had the opportunity to attend a series of sessions that provided in-depth training in strengthening business engagement. Workshops dove deeply into business-friendly partner programs, examining opportunities for intervention across the business cycle; and demonstrated new tools and strategies to deliver transformative service through regional and sectoral program integration.

Many sessions emphasized understanding the power of labor-management training partnerships in California and the country. How to engage, create, leverage, and support labor-management training partnerships at a local and regional level while serving the business community through enduring quality programs. The business team learned about the changes to State of California alignment plans that marry into the federal level under a new administration.

Esteban Tadeo, BSR for Butte County, commented that he "appreciated, not only hearing of other providers having similar business service challenges, but of the various ways and approaches used by others to overcome these trials and tribulations." Valerie Bourque, BSR for Plumas County, enjoyed "meeting other industry professionals and connecting the dots within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) circle of knowledge."

AFWD's business team continues to strive for excellence within the business communities, always bringing new and improved programs and resources to assist with the economic development of the counties we serve.



NoRTEC Training April 12 & 13

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) attended The Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) training held in Anderson, CA. We were happy to be out of the snow, rain, and flooding for a couple of days and enjoyed the warmer temperature of Anderson. This meeting brought together representatives from all 11 counties under the NoRTEC consortium: Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Sierra, Nevada, Butte, Tehama, Shasta, Siskiyou, Del Norte, and Trinity.

NoRTEC reviewed the importance of understanding and using the Labor Market information we get from our local representative from Employment Development Department. Many participants receive monthly reports on their specific region. These reports provide us with not only the employment rates, unemployment rates per county, but also provide the number of jobs and the sectors that they are listing. Those in attendance shared valuable insights into how they used labor reporting. This led to a review of a new online tool called EconoVue. EconoVue is a powerful tool to understand the individual market region outlooks on business. This website shows everything from the health of a business to the health of employment sector by region. There is also a customer relationship management tool included in this powerful tool. NoRTEC is exploring its use at this time.



NO RTEC

NoRTEC Training: continued

There was a review of the CalJobs tracking for business services which should be implemented in July 2017. The Business Services representatives were asked to become familiar with the marketing and business services portion of CalJobs, adding the current businesses each deals with on a regular basis. More information will be forthcoming on this new system which could replace the current use of journal entries which provides the type and number of services businesses received each month.

Additional to the regular business, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) presented a short video which gave an insight into the various types of disabilities. In order to make us more aware of various disabilities, a person from each table was asked to talk about a topic while given an example of a disability such as talk as if you have cotton in your mouth to simulate a person with a speech impairment. This exercise was warmly received while making us more aware of the daily difficulties facing those with disabilities.

A renewed emphasis on Veterans, providing priority of services to all veterans was welcomed. The short time we spent together was greatly appreciated. Many commented how nice it was to put a face with a name as we often correspond with various offices throughout the NoRTEC region. We became better prepared for our rolls within the company and better prepared to serve our communities.





AFWD America's Job Center of California

Statistics

PY 2016 -2017



Sierra County

Total Visitors

236

Sierra County

Business Services

Business Served	52
Service Provided	106

AFWD

Total Clients

Enrolled: 955

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2017)

Butte 5.0%	Nevada 3.8%
Lassen 5.0%	Plumas 7.1%
Modoc 5.8%	Sierra 5.7%

