Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc., is always supporting its staff with trainings to service our program participants better. In late September, staff met for an annual meeting/training at the Oroville office. Staff engaged in interactive team-building activities covering information regarding target sectors, occupations and career paths, the effects on our participants who are coming from a poverty culture, engaging our audience with our presentations skills, and building a professional resume.

Wonderful presentations were given by Career Center Advisors from the Chico office. Jill Ghirardelli and Lisa Scott gave an insightful presentation titled, ‘Bridges Out of Poverty’, which focused on the poverty culture and how to help this population transition their lives and work history. Mark Alvidrez covered the topic of ‘Presentation Tips’. With the implementation of the 21st Century curriculum, Mark’s presentation encouraged staff to think outside the box in preparing materials, engaging audiences, and staying open to the flow of information. Sandy Wangberg’s shared a presentation on ‘Professional Resumes’. This presentation was a great way to offer something more to our clients who want to facilitate the use of technology in locating a job position and showcasing a resume.

The afternoon session of our agenda included guest speakers from the Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division. Ignacio Magana, EDD Wagner Peyser Employment Services, Michael McDonald, EDD Veteran Services, and Luis Alejo, EDD Labor Market Division. They helped to demystify contact information, the latest research information, and reviewed what EDD Veteran services can do for participants and job searcher.
National Emergency Grant-Temporary Job Creation

NEG-TJC Storm Partnership

Modoc National Forest

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) began partnering with the Modoc National Forest through the NEG-TJC Storm grant this summer. The Modoc Business and Career Network provided two temporary crew laborers for project work in storm damaged areas on the Modoc National Forest. Temporary workers provided on the ground labor while Modoc Forest heavy equipment operators worked to repair storm damage.

On the Pencil Road project, temporary workers cleaned out clogged culverts, restacked rock supports around those culverts, removed rocks from the road and trimmed trees utilizing pole saws. Heavy equipment operators resurfaced the storm rutted road from the Modoc Estates boundary to the top of Swanson Canyon. These road improvements were supported with funding from the Forest Service Regional Office for storm damage repairs, a partnership with the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) to provide additional labor and Modoc County Roads Department who provided valuable heavy equipment. (Continued next page)
TJC workers also repaired and painted signage at the Patterson and East Creek Campgrounds which were damaged by winter storm activity. Additionally, these workers assisted on projects for the Cave and Lily recreation area drinking water systems and Buck Creek Station fire suppression water system all of which sustained storm related damage from the winter storms of 2017. Workers dug out the soil around the water systems and sealed damaged piping to those water systems. These water systems were located in remote areas of the Modoc National Forest.
The Warner Mountains Group Home-Environmental Alternatives in Modoc County has served many young boys and girls over the years. The facility offered safe housing and high levels of supervision to children who were assessed as able to function in a community setting, but not in a foster home. This structured program offered a self-sufficient environment in the small rural community of Canby with an onsite school operated by the local public school district solely for the group home children. Unfortunately, changes brought about by implementation of the AB 403-Public Social Services: Foster Care Placement bill necessitated the closure of the group home.

The loss of the group home affected a total of 38 people who were employed in a variety of positions such as Child Care Workers, Security Workers, Kitchen Staff, Maintenance Workers and Administrative staff. Layoffs began in early October and continued through mid-November when the closure was completed. Upon learning about the closure plans, the Modoc Business and Career Network quickly arranged to provide an onsite Rapid Response Orientation to the group home employees. Rapid Response is a pro-active service designed to respond to layoffs by quickly coordinating services and providing immediate aid to companies and their affected workers. A total of eleven employees attended the onsite Rapid Response orientation which was provided before the layoffs began. Unemployment and training information, an overview of services available from the One Stop Center and support were offered during the meeting and in the difficult transition period that followed. An additional ten affected employees visited the One Stop Center for assistance with resume creation, job search and other career services. Further, employees were provided with opportunities to attend Employment Skills workshops to help them prepare for new opportunities in employment.

Employees expressed appreciated for the onsite Rapid Response Orientation session. Warner Mountains employee, JoAnn Keeney remarked that, “The assistance from the Modoc Business and Career Network was very helpful and it is comforting to know that if I have further questions or need assistance I can contact them anytime.”
A collaborative agreement was recently renewed between CalWORKS and Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) to continue bringing Employment Skills workshops to Modoc County residents during Fiscal Year 2017-18. The Employment Skills workshop series is funded through the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG). The workshop series is presented over a one month period, meeting two afternoons a week at the CalWORKS office in Alturas. The workshops are presented by AFWD staff with topics including Customer Service, Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Communication and Mock Interviews. Workshops are available to both CalWORKs and AFWD clients as well as the general public.

Assisting participants in finding full time employment is an important goal for both the program and the majority of workshop attendees. After successfully completing the workshop series, participants are supported by AFWD staff through individual counseling as they job search. Services are individualized to meet the needs of each client.

Both Teresa and Shavonne successfully completed the workshop series and afterwards found full time employment in October. Teresa was seeking employment in the Food Service industry in Cedarville. She wanted to work near her home to be available for her small children. She successfully completed the workshop series and also obtained a Food Handlers Certification to equip her for work in the Food Service industry. Shortly after, she obtained full-time employment as a cook at Antojito’s Acapulco Restaurant in Cedarville. Shavonne was seeking steady full time work in an office setting as her employment goal. She fine tuned her resume and sharpened her employment skills while attending the workshops and was hired by Modoc Medical Center as a full time Admitting Clerk. Congratulations, Teresa and Shavonne!
Ascend Program, Inc.

Youth Program Career Center Advisor Erika Mariscal attended the Ascend Training in Oroville, CA. The Ascend Program is run by two Criminal defense attorneys Christine Morse and Toni White. They noticed their clients repeatedly returned to the criminal system. They knew that at least part of the problem was the design of the system itself; standard rehabilitation programs simply don’t work.

The Ascend Program is a Holistic Non-Profit Program that provides legal education, relapse prevention and advanced life skills trainings. They assist people who have been incarcerated and people who have a history of addiction. The program teaches life skills to keep people out of jail or away from drugs and find employment. They help them enroll and attend college. This program has helped people become self-sufficient adults and stay out of trouble.

Training Highlights –

- According to a Great Britain report; a youth’s brain continues to develop into the mid to late 20’s, affecting reason, judgment, and impulse control.
- It also showed how young people who have had troubled or traumatic childhoods take longer to mature. Trauma impairs peoples socially, and emotionally.
- The youth adopt risky behaviors, behavioral health problems, social problems and even early death.
- The youth have authority issues, and have a hard time building trust.
- In California, 7 out of 10 offenders will be convicted again within three years.

Understanding all the risk factors will make it easier to help them to find a solution or remedy instead of having them return to jail. By changing the risk factors we can help clients learn how to obey all laws – even those which are difficult to understand, which can lead to accidental re-offending and arrest. This program will also help them become self-sufficient, and support their families and become positive role models for their children.

This training helped everyone who attended learn that if we set our minds to find solutions we can make a life changing difference in people’s lives.
Partnering With Lassen Community College
Licensed Vocational Nurse Program

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) staff from offices in both Modoc and Lassen counties partnered this year with Lassen Community College to assist students in the LCC Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) program. Each student was interviewed and assessed by AFWD staff prior to the start of classes to determine an appropriate training plan to meet each student’s individual needs. 18 students in total were enrolled in the LVN program and assisted by AFWD. The LVN program began in January of this year and culminated in a moving Graduation and Pinning Ceremony on December 8th. AFWD staff will continue to work with the graduates as they move through the licensing and job search processes.

Modoc County resident and LVN student Heather Weisenborn commuted 210 miles roundtrip to classes daily over the course of the school year. AFWD was able to assist her with required uniform, supply, and licensing expenses and assistance with the extra transportation costs she incurred commuting. Heather conquered the grueling LVN schedule fueled by a ceaseless determination to achieve her goal to become an LVN. Congratulations, Heather!

Additionally, AFWD staff attended the recent graduation ceremony and proudly watched their clients receive well deserved diplomas. The celebration included personal videos of thanks by each student and a montage of photos and video clips from the school year. Traditions established by famous nurse, Florence Nightingale were also honored in the ceremony. Those traditions included the pinning ceremony where graduates were presented with a special nursing pin from their loved ones, a lamp lighting ceremony and a group recitation of the Nightingale Pledge. Both students and Nursing Director, Christi Myers thanked AFWD for their support indicating that it was invaluable to the success of all.
**AFWD America’s Job Center of California**

**Statistics**

**PY 2017 -2018**

**Modoc County**

**Total Visitors**

1,034

**Modoc County**

**Business Services**

Businesses Served 39

Services Provided 102

**AFWD**

**Total Clients Enrolled**

631

**Unemployment Rate**

(As of: November 2017)

- Butte 4.8%
- Lassen 4.9%
- Modoc 7.1%
- Nevada 3.4%
- Plumas 7.5%
- Sierra 4.7%

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