

Meeting Notes of Each Forum

Community Forum on Local Workforce Planning

Boyle Heights Technology Youth Center

November 29, 2018

Attendees:

1. Carlos Vasquez - Coalition for Responsible Community Development
2. Sophia Mayora – LAUSD Adult Programs Teacher & Advisor
3. Paul Kratzer - LAUSD Teacher Advisor
4. Pablo Altazo – Director of Technical College
5. Jessica Espinoza – Boyle Heights Worksource Center

City Staff: TJay, GRuvalcaba, DEder, GDLRosa, DRandall, Robert Sainz (SBWIB)

Necessary Skills for Job Retention:

- Critical thinking
- Ability to Show Up/ Proper Attendance
- Soft Skills
 - Re-entry population often needs even more help navigating tech, the internet, etc.
- Financial Literacy

Identified Needs in the Community

- Work-readiness workshops
- Work internships that require a week-long project to prove work readiness
 - McDonalds' "Hamburger University" has a good training program that allows for college students to work part-time (more competitive for HS students)
- **Single parent households**— (usually women) need affordable child care
- **Mature workers**—need additional hard skills and financial planning for retirement

- **Homeless population** –need variety of interrelated resources (housing, mental health, work readiness skills, etc.)
- **Veterans** – mental health needs
- **Undocumented workers** – how to serve them? Provide supportive services, and enroll - how to assist? What is the official policy?
 - New initiative - street vending is legal as of yesterday
 - Comes down to what can legally do with WIOA.
 - Selective services - many individuals with problems are not enrolled.
 - LAUSD offers these trainings regardless of documentation.
- Wrap-around services needed (AJCC staff do not always aware)
 - Dept. of Rehabilitation
 - Legal services for re-entry population
- Can sometimes be hand-holding to get people from step 1 to step 2
- Unions would like to have workers, but they need to be mentally prepared
- **Capacity Building**
 - Need more communication between partners, orgs, etc.
 - Need better referral system to rely on a community of experts to answer questions
 - Need regional webinars
 - P3 partnerships - doing a good job - starting collaborations to share info and resources, wrap around services
 - Have lunch with community champions - quarterly event - use scenarios to train and build capacity.
 - Get staff [of multiple providers] to meet each other and interact.

How To help job seekers

- Be clear w/ jobseekers about what an AJCC can and cannot do

- Because the employment rate has improved, AJCCs can work with populations that have more barriers
- Make center feel welcoming

What services and support do job seekers need to help prepare for and find work?

- Example: client who wanted to be speech pathologist
 - Mentor client on how to navigate education pathway and employment
 - Showed specific pathway
- AJCC is a good step one
- Community college is good at step 10
- Few orgs can be good at all the steps
- AJCC should be realistic and clear on what training can do in 11 months
- Employers manage human capital same way they manage any other inventory systems = last in, first out.
 - Need in-demand, instant (not in advance), building training types and models that can adapt quickly to multiple employers
 - i.e. - clinical medical assistant.
 - Shortened training hours with intensive employer input
 - Difficulty of training funding [being] so low.

How are AJCC's involved in processes of educational partners?

- Difficult for small orgs to meet large job orders by employers
- Setting policies in annual and regional plans - to coordinate - otherwise, why would partners come out of silos?!
- How will students stay in class without pay or stipend?

Construction trades

- Due to huge amount of construction, who will take care of the venues after built?

- Construction employers need so great, hiring out of state staff.
 - Need local residents to get these jobs.
- Jumping through hoops to get into the unions.
- System has to be more understanding that training takes more than \$1,200 each. It costs more.
 - Costs must be absorbed by the system.
 - Customized training costs a lot.
 - Have to have capacity to pay for it.
 - Pell grant is 900 hours. Has nothing to do with need for 900 hours. Not needed for medical assistant - but 900 hours nonetheless. So result is we build systems around the funding needs

What types of training are most needed in the area?

- HSET [High School Equivalency Test] - most students test out in three months.

Do people in the community have a good understanding of the programs and services?

- Yes - LAUSD uses texts and emails.
- When LAUSD closed schools in 2012, it was an obstacle - they went out and door knocked to create awareness to local community that school was reopened.
- CRCD [AJCC contractor] has highly visible van - to promote services - pop-up style
- Would be great if city would do a campaign, centralized number - looking for employment based
- Technology - doing it quickly - use social media platforms

How do clients hear about services?

- Usually through word of mouth

Are there specific gaps between the services that are available and the services that people need?

- Carlos – [asking group of youth] “if you had a 100K what would you do?”
 - Youth: I would buy a car - former foster youth – haven’t had mature person to mentor what is real.
 - Mentoring is needed.
 - One of the biggest gaps is thousands of youth aging out of foster system = they require a lot of work before get to employability level.
 - Youth do not necessarily know technology in a professional setting. Like opening windows, saving files, Microsoft suite (18-24 years age group)
- Gaps in services - think of it on a broader level - what happens to them?
 - Connecting to resources.
 - If more people come in, maybe more leverage in what we have, more money for training.
- Terry - Anecdotally, we hear that folks want to get trained but don't want to take time without pay. They want a job - bills to pay
 - Bills to pay - if go into centers - EDD - can get CTE
- Multiple enrollment processes of various agencies.
- If a DPSS participant why are we spending hours and hours validating the same documentation.
- Need an adequate referral system.
- The complexities of silos and eco-systems
- Necessities of separate contracts
- Create a franchise system - a uniform system -
- EWDD looks at individual goals of contractors, not system goals
- Recycling info on a continuing client - like multiple agencies - but idea to consider, city and county create a system for one database, all agencies use

- And also create a universal release statement - allowing all agencies to release info
 - Link employers in this system, too.
- CalJOBS - number of social services that do not use the program internally. They use it for basic workforce programs but not their own internal system
- Issues of confidentiality -.
Want access to base wage job file. State limits. Employers don't want to be bothered by inquiries.
- Be mindful of employer - reduce forms and duplication
- Without EDD onsite, it's challenging to make work at AJCCs

If you were writing plan what would you say?

- Difficulty enrolling disabled workers
- Serve older youth 21-24 - would like to see more interaction on how to connect with EDD for these clients
 - EDD is focused on adult services
- Priority of services to LGBTQ students, trans-youth, veterans, mature workers, mono-lingual persons.
 - City doing great on this, but can take 10 times the amount of work to prepare/employ
- Homeless clients increasing - from one out of 100, to now one out of 15
- Enumeration of outcomes - system priority and highlight of quality of outcomes

Community and Stakeholder Forum on Collaborating with CalFresh Employment and Training Programs

LA Valley College (LAVC) – Academic & Career Advancement Building

5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen, CA 91401

December 4, 2018

Attendance:

1. Fatema Baldiwala – Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC)
Workforce/ Adjunct Faculty
2. Llanet Martin – LAVC / Associate Dean, WDB Board Member
3. Rhonda Pose – Community Career Development (CCD) / Director
4. Carlene Gepner – CCD/BRA
5. Adelas Angeles – CCD/TSE
Program Coordinator
6. Eleanor Comegys – Department of Adult and Career Education (DACE)/LAUSD – WOIA Navigator
7. Julietta Karapetyan – DPSS/
CalFresh Program – Program Assistant

City Staff: Terry Jay, Gary de la Rosa

Are CalFresh Employment and Training programs currently available in the local area? If so, what services are provided and what orgs are providing them?

- LA County does have program, but they offer to participants receiving CalFresh and General Relief (GF) Services
- Various contracts with nonprofit orgs that offer
 - Job search
 - Job retention
 - Vocational training
- Goal is to partner more to offer services for CalFresh population
- As of now, we do not mandate CalFresh work requirements
 - But waiting for upcoming changes
 - Eventually they will be mandated to comply with work requirements and will need to have services available to them
- CalFresh population is very different population than other demographics
- Community colleges are contending with the issue that a lot of students in community colleges (CC's) would automatically be eligible for CalFresh
 - Challenge is case management component that is not there with CC
 - Students who are homeless and/or have some type of disability are able to use those services in CC but the outreach is not there to engage
- Disenfranchised population
 - Often living at or below poverty level w/ chronic food insecurity
 - Trying to leverage available opportunities
 - A lot of community colleges are interested, but capacities are limited
 - Staff, marketing materials, and a lot of follow-up are required to make sure that the participant can follow up additional paperwork/ etc.

- This issue can be solved by partnering up as an “assister”
 - Processing and compliance will be taken care of by DPSS [local CaFresh administrator]
- Ideally it would be to have a CalFresh representative to meet on the campus once a week
 - Walk through the online application
 - Process them and they would follow up w/ the individual

What types of workforce services are most needed to help individuals receiving CalFresh benefits succeed in obtaining and retaining employment?

- Even if someone is not job-ready yet, you can still write them up on a job lead list/digital newsletter
 - Improve their morale as they start to be more engaged about what job leads there are and what they will have to do to be ready for those jobs

Community Career Development – LAVC

- General Services Program
 - For individuals who do not have children
 - Welcome to be enrolled if they are job ready, looking for work, etc.
 - Paid work experience/internship program for GR
 - Help identify worksite
 - Work with worksite supervisor
 - Identity what the day to day skills would be needed
 - Paid for through different funds – usually between 220 -280 work hours
 - Mainly get referrals from DPSS that the applicants can go to the WIOA program
 - Every center works differently depending on how many/what other types of grants they have aside from WIOA

- Other centers would need to have additional funding to be able to provide this internship program
- Need better way to connect btw different organizations and a point person at those orgs
- LAVC has noncredit classes for workforce readiness
 - Perhaps a possibility for WorkSource Centers [AJCCs] to utilize
 - 10- week course but students can take whichever workshops they want to (don't have to go to all 10 weeks)
 - Job readiness class (no cost). To get a certificate they have to take 8 of the sessions.
 - For the community so anybody can sign up
- Job readiness training is strongly needed

What barriers to employment are faced by CalFresh recipients and what resources are available to address those barriers?

- [Example of] South Bay WIB and LAVC
 - Mandatory “blueprint for success” job readiness program first
 - Week-long program

There is no sense of community

- Clients go from center to center, etc.
- They need to learn what it is to be part of a community and be answerable to
- Not just a one shot deal
- Get people in a cohort/group of people and that way they exchange information
- Have someone checking in on each other/ facilitator
- Training programs that are more than just once, then it gives them a sense of being accountable and learning essential soft skills
- Have to create bridges!

- Create bridges between adult schools and work source centers, etc.
- Need warm handoffs, so that they feel that they are being taken care of
- Not just being taken care of by one person, but also community
- Need partnership with WorkSource Center

What partnerships exist or could be developed btw DPSS, the local work source system, and other orgs that provide or could provide services to CalFresh recipients? How do partners work with one another and how do they share information?

- Incorporate essential skills to hardcore training
- Have found that people ask “What kind of job am I going to get?”
 - Have to hook them into a training where they have their “job card”
 - Get a certification of some
- Some are successful through blueprint success and some are not
- 60% are very successful and 40% are not – homeless population, domestic violence, pregnant participants, mental health
 - Need mental health services for the population
 - Nonprofits, counseling w/in departments,
 - Biotech bridging academy – have afternoon marriage/family therapist come in and talk within the six weeks and stress management course
 - Dept. of Rehab and Dept. of Mental Health
 - Mandated to be partners already
 - Have partnered w/ USC to have licensed Masters of Social Work MSWs [Masters of Social Work] in the office and just depending on what their concentration is
 - Some are youth, some are vets, some are domestic violence
 - Get 2-3 in their first and second year and do their whole internship with us
 - Completely free and private

Is there a way to provide outreach/ information about mental health and other “Taboo” services in marginalized communities?

- During Intake – “there are questions on here that will benefit you if you answer these questions [such as] referral and or money for other services. If you feel uncomfortable answering them in a group session then you are welcome to come up in private”
- Need to educate communities over the stigma of certain topics
- Always have room for improvement
- Meetings like this, exchanging cards, but with more partners → get DHSS [Los Angeles Department of Social Services] and DOR [California Department of Rehabilitation] here, etc.
- Once a quarter would be good → hear about new grants, initiatives, etc.
- P3 – 18- 24 old demographic
 - Expand to not just those demographic
 - Monthly meetings -> warm handoff because much more effective
- Resource Fair on community colleges that work around employment/etc.

Are CalFresh recipients being referred to programs that prepare them for high demand jobs in the region’s priority sectors? What services or systems are in place to help these recipients succeed in such programs and on the job?

- Have to first tell them that they need to get a job to move on to a career
- Have to be realistic and then develop so that they can look forward to an attainable goal
- Have to change the mindset so that they can reestablish or establish skills
- Majority are being referred to programs that are training programs working with work placement services
- Targeted local hire program with the city–go through a whole process before they are even referred.
 - Comes back to that support

- Thinking of CalFresh participants who are willing to do what local hire does:
 - Definite career ladder
 - Once they see that they can work their way up then they will be more successful
- What types of employers are there?
 - Project management and different levels of project managements
 - Can go from custodial, retail, hospitality, etc.
 - It's all about the participants who do the training programs as volunteers. They are more successful than those who are mandated
 - Good relationship with employers is a must

Encouragement and success stories are very motivating

- It just takes one person to come back and tell them about how they did it
- Getting the word out of "Don't be afraid to apply" etc.
- Having one-on-one mentor

Why are all these great services not that well known?

- People are told, but sometimes all you need is someone to handhold them
- The warm handoff is necessary
- Not necessarily that they are not told about services, but of really getting there
- Hard to get individuals to go out of their comfort zone
 - Have staff at organizations that go to you
 - It's about having partnership w/ partner school/org and have staff meet them there
- Community college messaging → will transfer to four year university → **Change the messaging that community colleges offer / re-brand!!**
 - But what college communities offer needs to be re-marketed
 - Job readiness training is not marketed

- Other services that community colleges offer are not marketed
 - Taking childhood education classes to be a better parent; gaining skills for sectional vocations; etc.
- Need to do community outreach to show that community members can come in for a variety of services!!!

Community Forum on Local Workforce Planning

Watts YouthSource Center December 6, 2018

What Services and support do job seekers need to help prepare for and find work?

- Mental Health Services: very important services to help prepare for work readiness
- Quicker/better streamlining of financial aid for classes
- Access to quicker funding can provide for more participants to continue and finish training
- Allowance for participants as they participate in job training. Social services get cut once they start any type of job training (CalFresh, General Relief, and Medical).
- Financial Literacy courses
 - What types of training are most needed in the area?
- Financial Literacy Program
- Life Skills Courses: proper work etiquette (calls in when late or sick, how to interact with peers, how to pay personal bills etc.).
- Life Coach/Job Coach
- Do People in the community have a good understanding of the programs that are available to them? If not, what is the best way to get the word out?
- More communication with family members or mentors to get them involved in the various programs that are available in the community for youth seeking employment.
- More advertisement: community events, radio ads, television, flyers, billboards.
- Word of mouth from people that have been involved in various programs or have had a positive experience in job training or obtaining full employment.

Are there specific gaps between the services that are available and the services that people need? If so, how can we bridge those gaps?

- Assessment of job readiness in between job training and gaining employment
- More options for child daycare services
- More accessibility to work-source centers, youth-source centers after hours for those that work during the day, have child care issues and don't have the opportunity to later in the evening to walk into a work-source center.

If you were writing the local workforce plan, what would your priorities be and why?

- Better data access for job searches, social services and call centers.
- Better streamlining of funds for job training and data sharing.
- Extend WorkSource hours later into the afternoon/evening.
- More training for work-source center staffers to have better knowledge on available and upcoming programs and services to better serve the community in their area and guide them in the right direction.
- Ride along programs: Where the individual gets to shadow the person for a whole day learn about the job and see if the career is something they would like to pursue

Workforce Development Community and Stakeholder Forum

Van Nuys Civil Center - Marvin Braude Building, Conference Room B

Friday, Dec. 7, 2018

Notes

Attendance:

1. Alberto Uribe – Community Career Development Inc (CCD) , Executive Director
2. John Alvarez – LAUSD Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE), WOIA Navigator
3. Alex Martinez – Goodwill SoCal South Valley YouthSource Center, Service Coordinator
4. Michelle Jones - Office Trainee, Admin Clerk, EWDD
5. Donny Brooks – EWDD

City Staff: Michelle Jones, Donny Brooks, Gary de la Rosa, Terry Jay, Devin Randall, Minerva Solis

I. Welcome/ Background

Terry provides background on local plan modification

- Los Angeles Basin Region has to develop/ continue to develop partnerships w/ CalFresh (run by DPSS)
- Employment and Training Program at CalFresh
- No current work requirement for CalFresh but pending legislation
- Strengthening ties w/ DOR - esp. for those w/ developmental disabilities,
- strengthen relationships w/ services for single parents, ESL, foreign born and refugees

III. Forum Presentation (Gary de la Rosa)

What services and support do job seekers need to help prepare for and find work?

Alberto: Nothing new → challenges that job seekers have using services are

- transportation

- child care
- not new concepts; very basic
- but issues that come into play with clients trying to access services
- if they can't get to training facility or AJCC because of transportation issues or child care then it immediately stops the process

Gary: What can we do to address that?

Alberto: In the short term, we can do something in the AJCC's

- It's triage aka going to an emergency room
- It's not long term in nature (what we can do)
- Not sure what can be done to address long term

John: One of populations - trying to work with more folks referred through DPSS (Esp. transitional subsidized employment program (TSE))

- Go to paid work experience program
- Seen through Sun Valley is that a vast majority don't have a HS diploma, which makes it very difficult
- Most people have children and are in a 40-hour per week work assignment
- Trying to get them to squeeze in time to get High School Equivalency or diploma
- We've been to a couple meetings and still trying to find answers to better serve those participants
- Super critical to job market is getting a HS diploma
- Carving out some time for them to get some type of skills training
- Usually have some type of poor work history

Alberto: Yes, important piece especially as unemployment has declined

- Unemployment is 3.7% nationally as of this morning and has declined drastically over last 8 years
- Need to upskill people w/ whom we work
 - Vast majority are women and what can we do to help them improve their skills
- Thoughts but no tangible action
- I worked in GAIN 10 years again Chatsworth/ Antelope Valley so I have some knowledge

G: Are these supports and trainings leading to middle class lifestyle?

John : Some of them do, some don't

- For example, as an aircraft mechanic (the training program is 2 years long) you definitely make a good living but the trade off is that it's 2 years and full time
 - Most of the students are paying for it on their own
 - Small handful of veterans getting GI benefits in program
 - WIOA approved but because it's 2 years it's impossible to find workforce partner
 - Aircraft mechanic has 3 major modules
 - Last one is power plant
 - Working to get power plant on CalJOBS - just to get that listed on I-TRAIN
- Make more attractive for partners
- Others are medical assistant (def a pathway)
- 4 1/2 months of medical training
 - Majority get full time job w/ full time benefits
- Keep in touch to get them into training
- Electricians and welders
 - Also middle class/ good income

Outcomes aren't there for:

- Graphic design (will go into freelance work)
- Computer operation classes (very entry level office occupations)

Alberto : The challenge is that there is a network of community colleges trying to set up programs like [these] but it's matter of scale, lack of funding,

- Cannot scale up and replicate what are good programs
- Always been a challenge
- More of a challenge now than before
- Back in the 70's and 80's for what was called workforce development was very robust
- Programs exist, but it's about making them scalable

Alex: Have been doing this for 19 years – it's more about getting those that get the support to know about it:

- Marketing and branding issue
- We work together in marketing it, and am working w/ John LAUSD but it's getting

- WorkSource Centers used to have a marketing budget where we could get community to know via community organizing style
- People who are following current social media accounts are not really the community members, it's usually more partners
- Need to get out on the street and really let the community know
- Dealing w/ with 16-24 year olds / HS dropouts
- Trying to get them engaged by being able to provide funding for extended amount of time
 - They need a job and they need money
- Mid 2000's, after Bush, where we were helping people get training → to some degree that's the model
- It's getting that transportation assistance and the materials, helping them pay their rent
- Most of the young people are in-between home and in the street

G: A common theme I keep hearing is, "I don't have the time to take advantage of this."

Alberto : Unique to LA is the issue of homelessness

- Exists on a scale here that really is not scene in most of the country
- Haven't really wrapped our heads around on how to work w/ the homeless
- What can we do in terms of workforce development, which is going to be much more intense than what is currently being done
- Very unique/ LA challenge

G: There's a program that's looking at providing housing before getting into workforce. Perhaps that's something that we need to look into.

Alberto: United Way [and] CCD → focused on homelessness

- Rapid rehousing is first
- Housing/ rehousing is the principle priority
- Workforce development plays a role
- Part of the plan in measure H, for example,
- Important support
- Many individuals who once you are able to stabilize they can then access services
- In addressing issues w/ income we become part of the solution in addressing homelessness
- We are aware of it, but haven't really grappled with it

G: What types of training are most needed in this area?

John: School district needs to expand health and medical training

- Have some really high quality programs at two main campuses
- One of the challenges we have is the many steps it takes to be able to hire a teacher, so maybe we can focus on internally in the division of adult career education

Alberto : I would agree. Also manufacturing as well.

- Big field/industry
- For the youth the opportunity is not graspable
 - Try to design maps to paint a picture for them
 - Have to explain how the process works
- That's what's needed --> more exposure --
- There used to be a bridge where if you had a job you could get up to 6 months of support for rent/etc. -Someone who can actually afford to pay their rent, but not today.
- [In] the youth system it's happening under the P3
 - Have various providers
- - get the resources but it's also the process it takes to connect them

Alberto : Important for the AJCCs to work closely with community colleges in the area

- They are going to know the training environment in the area
- It's what's required
- Communities are going to differ dramatically by region
- Certain fields that are seemingly universal (such as healthcare, construction, etc.) - but others that are more specialized in nature

T: To share what's come up before - one of them was "Essential skills" in folks that we are serving aka soft skills

- Showing up on time
- Getting along with others
- Taking direction

Alberto: I agree with all of that. It is not 2010, 2009, in the midst of the great recession. So we are now working w/ hardest to serve populations, working with individuals who don't have many of the most basic skills that are required - what we consider to be as basic, it not always very self-explanatory

A: I agree that we definitely have that issue with some of our youth, but one issue is marijuana:

- “Because it's legal, I can just do it anytime”
- Have to train them because it's not the same thing
- Have to teach our youth that it's not okay [in the job environment]

John: LAUSD did come up with soft skills course but the enrollment numbers just weren't there. [It was] 20 hours total w/ a certificate at the end, but campuses all over did not have enough enrollment in summer of 2017, so much work went in getting course outline.

A: Can have it as a requirement as part of the training so that you can't miss it

T: Requirements are good, but then how do you sell the program? So, if there's obviously not an innate interest, then how do you market it?

G: I used to teach LAUSD, and if you can explain why, then they will more likely to pay attention.

- Show them / explanation
- Everybody learns differently so it's an issue of explaining why

Do people in the community have a good understanding of the programs and services that are available to them? If not, what is the best way to get the word out?

John: No, and part of it is on our schools as well as other student organizations

- One of the things that our school is missing out on --> getting more onboard w/ technology based marketing
- “Steal” a few [marketing] techniques from a few companies-just taking a fraction of that, then we would have a lot more students
- Some of it is on us
- Really grassroots efforts and going out and doing presentations there
- If we had a way to do that type of technology based marketing we would probably have tremendous success
- Don't see school district doing that soon
- Might have to pull in company

Alberto: I think with the Latino community, it's important to get to the families and parents that there are programs.

- Good to let youth know as well

- Have to communicate to all the parents
- Have to market it in spanish/ any other language/ etc
- Idea of "how does a bank communicate their services? they do everything possible"
- Have to think of it in the same terms
- It's hard to communicate across cultures --> how is that possible? I don't know

G: Are there any other barriers/stigmas?

Alberto: I'm at a YouthSource. We haven't had that.

Terry: "Michelle, Devin, Minerva [Community Administrative Service Workers and Tagetted Local Hire], how did you guys find out about your positions?"

Michelle : I found out about through Target Local Hire [Program].

Devin: I found out about a program through local union 18. I am very familiar with some city employees. I also found out about local hire.

T: At lead 95% of people often respond in the survey that they found out about our programs through word of mouth. The more we can share [about our programs] with folks going through the door then it multiplies.

Alex : Maybe if there was a regional approach using regional funding for marketing of the system

- The city and county are working a lot closer these days
- The challenge of course is that it's 7 different areas, but putting this regional plan together it's gone a great deal towards different WDBs working together in general.
- It's better than before

Are there specific gaps btw the services that are available and the services that people need? If so, how can we bridge those gaps?

John : I know I have worked a lot with you, Gary with dislocated workers. But there's not a lot of language support for monolingual speakers. With the support we have right now they can do 2 hours of ESL and 2 hours of workforce training. We have rolled out 2 programs (Entry level) and technician program

- - Very small scale

- - People are continuing to be laid off and we haven't offered our progress to match the number of people
- If they are collecting unemployment insurance then it's their chance

Alberto : United Way is putting together a response to the fires in the valley further west.

- Address the needs who have lost their homes and employment
- What United Way is doing, since funds are strictly from them, everyone regardless of their legal status can avail themselves to this service
- By design did this
- It is thought that a significant number of individuals who have lost homes and/or employment opportunities are in fact those who are undocumented
- So gaps between services and people who need them --> undocumented community
- Another area that, if not unique, is most certainly very prominent than other parts of the country
- We have to do something

Alex : It's always been an issue. Yes. At the end of the day you train someone who is undocumented, then they go get deported. Then you just deported a skilled worker and that's somewhat positive side that they can go back and do the work the work they were trained to do.

G: Bridging the gaps?

Alberto : Money and legislation is another.

- What can this region do if you have funding that restricts funding that you can provide to a certain population?
- There is private money available and is going to be used to serve everyone.
- What can the system do to work and serve everyone?

G: If you were writing this local workforce plans, what would your priorities be and why?

Alberto: Since funding is more limited, then programs in LA County have to be more focused on populations of need;

- Homeless (has to be a priority, if not, the priority)
- Workforce development has to be part of the larger whole. It is a crisis.
- Build programs around it
- Give individuals jobs and careers that are sustainable in nature which are going to foster independence.

John: Homelessness needs to be at the forefront.

- Based on some of the work, we need to step up efforts probably more to offer more training that will serve people the right way
- The language support is a huge area of weakness
- What about the folks who would be a great pharmacy tech/medical assistant but don't have the language right now?
- [VESL is] one of the places we need to have in the plan.

A: When we mention the homeless, we have to talk about housing.

- Have to have usually two families in the city of LA
- Huge issue when family can't afford comfortable housing for their family
- I haven't seen anything this serious before
- We are losing a lot of people.

ENDING COMMENTS:

T: Good idea to have open forums (heard the message loud and clear). A common concern with service providers has been top-down engagement so far. City plans to have forums such as these on an ongoing basis.