



## News for the Week of August 10, 2015

### WORKSOURCE CENTER ACCENTUATES BENEFITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION



Les Roberson, 52, and his daughter Ryan Roberson, 18, were among the participants in a Wednesday cake-cutting marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Social Security's passage. Roberson developed congestive heart failure in his 40s and relied on Social Security to get through a rough patch in his life, he told event participants. Now he's back at work as a disability services coordinator at the Hollywood WorkSource Center located on the Los Angeles City College campus. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi joined U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra, other congressional representatives, college officials and community leaders in celebrating the

insurance program's longevity. EWDD GM Jan Perry was part of a roundtable discussion about the benefits and challenges facing Social Security looking ahead. As of March 31, the Hollywood WorkSource Center has helped 85 Social Security beneficiaries explore options for returning to work through its "Ticket to Work" program. "We're not asking for a favor," said Roberson, sitting next to his college-bound daughter. "It's something we've paid into."

**Performance Partnership Pilot moves ahead:** Workforce administrators received word Monday that LA City is one step closer to a P3 designation. EWDD is working with partners on providing final information, including specifying pilot goals, outcome measures and accountability mechanisms in coordinating services for out of school youth. A formal announcement of grant awards by federal agencies is expected in September.

**Freight biz gets expansion loan:** EWDD's Small Business loan program approved a \$280,000 loan on Aug. 7 for Consolidators International, Inc. to expand its business and add jobs. Consolidators International, Inc., a freight forwarding company founded by in 1993, sought the loan to support its growth plan and create eight new jobs. The firm is based near LAX, with other offices in New York, Atlanta, and Chicago. Their main focus is on exports to New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific Islands. In the last few years, the company added ocean freight services and also services for live events, television, recording, and film industries. They currently employ 30 workers with wages beginning at \$12 an hour and benefits including company-paid health insurance premiums and a 401K retirement plan. In the last several years, the company has been proactive in hiring and training

chronically unemployed and veterans, some of which have grown into higher positions in the company and some, with their new experience and knowledge, have moved on to pursue other great opportunities.

**BizSource Centers RFP:** The Mayor's office on Monday released EWDD's transmittal to Council requesting authorization to release a Request for Proposals to procure the Los Angeles BusinessSource Centers System. EWDD is seeking an Aug. 25 hearing before the Economic Development Committee.

**Tour of Tierra del Sol:** EWDD GM Jan Perry and AGM Robert Sainz toured Tierra del Sol in Sunland-Tujunga to talk about ways the nonprofit can partner with local WorkSource centers to provide services. The Monday visit took place at Tierra's 7-acre campus, modeled after a community college campus with agricultural and culinary vocational training. Tierra del Sol provides services to more than 675 people across Los Angeles County with cognitive, physical, emotional and behavioral challenges.



**Sidewalk vending hearings:** EWDD staff were on hand for two community meetings to gather comments about a proposal to allow sidewalk vending and vending in parks. The Tuesday meeting was held at the Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Center in West Los Angeles. EWDD staff are set to attend a Thursday meeting at Los Angeles City College.

**Layoffs averted:** EWDD staff teamed with LAEDC to help guide a craft beer producer to tax credits and other



incentives that enabled it to reduce its operating costs, expand its business and prevent layoffs. Eagle Rock Brewery accessed on-the-job training funds in May for key positions at its new pub, Eagle Rock Public House, and retained 25 jobs in Los Angeles. Eagle Rock Brewery was founded in 2009 and is part of a burgeoning craft beer

industry in Los Angeles.