



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, September 18, 2020
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meeting Contact:
Eduardo González, Interim Executive Director
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Location:

Virtual Meeting

General public, please register at the link below:

https://fresnostate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EARponRjS2iO6eCfzGEeEg

*Board members will be emailed a specific panelist link to join the meeting, please do not register using the link for the general public.

AGENDA September 18, 2020		
Item		
I.	Convene Meeting & Introductory Remarks	Chairman Vito Chiesa
II.	Consent Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes • Community Correspondence 	Eduardo González
III.	Partnership Priority #7 Health Panel Discussion Topic: COVID-19 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trudy Raymundo, California Dept. of Public Affairs - COVID-19 Response Team Lead, External Affairs 	Chairman Chiesa
IV.	Partnership Priority #7 Health Panel Discussion Topic: Grimm Family Education Foundation, Wellness Wednesdays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RJ Valentino, President, Grimm Family Education Foundation • Raj Cheshire, Operations and Community Coordinator, Edible Schoolyard Kern County 	Chairman Chiesa

V.	Partnership Priority #1 Water Supply & Quality Panel Discussion Topic: Developing a Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Hamilton, Chairman, Technical Committee for the Blueprint 	Eduardo González
VI.	Public and Board Comments	Public and Board
VII.	Adjournment	Chairman Chiesa



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 19, 2020

10 am – 12:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. Convene Meeting, Introductory Remarks

Chairman Vito Chiesa called the Second Quarter 2020 meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) called to order at 10:05 a.m. via Zoom.

Board members present were Lynne Ashbeck, Steve Bestolarides, Vito Chiesa, DeeDee D’Adamo, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, John Eisenhut, Bryn Forhan, Frank Gallegos, Andrew Genasci, Ellen Junn, Dan Leavitt, Luisa Medina, Patty Poire, Lourdes Ramirez, Mary Renner, Karen Ross, Luis Santana, and Scott Silveira

Board Deputies present were Jim Suennen, and Arturo Barajas

Advisory Board members present were Glenda Humiston, and Robert Tse

II. Consent Calendar

Chairman Chiesa moved to approve the consent calendar as published once a quorum was reached. The motion was seconded, and the motion was approved.

III. Partnership Priority #7 - Health

Topic: State and Local Health Officials updates on COVID 19

- **Kathleen Harriman**, PhD, MPH, Chief, Vaccine Preventable Disease Epidemiology Section California Department of Public Health

Due to technical difficulties, Dr. Harriman was unable to give her presentation on the high-level overview of the state’s situation on the COVID 19 response.

- **Kristin J. Cummings**, MD, MPH, Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS) Chief,

Occupational Health Branch California Department of Public Health

The California Department of Public Health encourages employers to remind their employees to follow basic public health steps like distancing and wearing a face covering. Identifying a workplace outbreak, which is defined as having at least 3 identified cases, early by isolating the few identified cases and quarantining their close contacts without substantially impacting operations. It is important to act early when the outbreak is small.

Testing capacity for COVID has increased to over 60,000 tests a day in California. The State Health Department has expanded the list of who is prioritized for testing which now includes workers, whether or

not they show symptoms, and recommends employers and local health departments who are dealing with small outbreaks to consider widespread testing of a workplace.

- **Julie Vaishampayan**, MD, MPH, Stanislaus County Public Health Officer

Stanislaus County has seen an increase in cases from about 1400 cases and 35 deaths. Initiatives to help implement CDC guidelines at a local level include outreach to vulnerable populations such as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and seasonal farmworker housing, and working towards getting local testing out to the worksites. There are currently 3 large testing collection sites in Stanislaus county that are run by Quest Diagnostics.

- **Timothy Lutz**, MBA, Director, Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)

Tulare County has the second highest amount of cases in the Valley with 3,000 cases. There have been 107 deaths with 81 deaths being skilled nursing home residents. Factors to the high case numbers are the food production facilities, food processing facilities, packaging facilities, and large house gatherings outside of the workplace.

Testing and isolation have been key areas Tulare County has been focusing on. There are 22 locations for testing. The local public health lab capacity is reserved for Tulare and partner counties for doing skilled nursing facility testing for fast turnaround testing. HHSA has been working with community health clinics to develop mobile testing specifically for farm workers and the seasonal community. Teams have been set up to handle outbreaks in specific facilities. HHSA has partnered with Workforce Investment Board and Local Community Action Agency to increase contact tracers.

IV. Partnership Priority #5 – Regional Industry Clusters

Topic: COVID 19 economic impact (State level view). How food and Ag have adapted and what is the biggest challenges as we continue towards economic recovery

- **Irena Asmundson**, PhD, Chief Economist, California Department of Finance

COVID 19 has upended all three patterns- Net Migration, births, and deaths. If we go into an extended disruption and don't control the public health situation, then unemployment in California will peak at 30%. Leisure and Hospitality jobs were hit the hardest. California should recover in 6.5 years and get back to the previous level of jobs we had in 2019. Personal income in 2020 is expected to drop by an enormous amount and transfers (unemployment, social security, insurance payments) will increase. Revenue forecast for 2023-2024 is expected to be \$128 billion, a 4.9% growth, but will not be where we were in 2019.

- **Fred Ruiz**, Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Ruiz Foods

Ruiz Foods is one of the largest employers in Tulare County. State Task Force has been representing the food and Ag industry in presenting solutions to the governor of California. Public Service announcements in multiple languages would play a crucial role in communicating with the community.

- **Hernan Hernandez**, Executive Director of the California Farmworker Foundation

The California Farmworker Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was built with the intention to bring about personal and professional development programs to farm workers by hearing directly from farm workers what they want to see from the organization. Data is collected yearly from the farm workers to know what their needs are.

Surveys were conducted throughout the Central Valley regarding COVID 19 and initiatives were developed from the responses. Initiatives include shipping food directly to work sites via their Ambassador program, a farm workers relief fund to help pay for rent relief, purchasing basic goods, and assistance to pay medical bills. Other initiatives include providing telehealth for farm workers in rural communities that lost their mobile health clinics due to COVID 19 and distributing facemasks to farmworkers.

A statewide PSA with Univision will be a Spanish campaign directly geared towards educating farm workers on COVID 19. There will be a forum in Delano targeted to farm worker communities that will educate how to prevent spreading.

V. Partnership Priority #6 – Broadband

Topic: San Joaquin Valley Broadband amid the COVID 19 pandemic

- **Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves**, MS, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Commissioner gave a high-level overview on infrastructure. Since 2007 Broadband has had the program called California Advanced Services fund that gives incentives for ISPs to build infrastructures. They are working hard to continue the funding this year. The state needs \$2.5-\$4.6 billion in funding just for infrastructure. The FCC has a large national fund that has established a rural digital opportunity fund, where California could potentially receive funding depending on how many people are applying in those areas.

In California, the PUC administers 6 different telecommunications programs. A limitation is that they are focused on a voice service when everything is going data. The programs need to be reformed and updated and made to focus on Broadband. They need to begin with the current program that is sunseting, the California Advanced Service fund. The program that they are focused on is how they can get more affordable Broadband programs where the infrastructure exists is the California Lifeline program.

- **California State Senator Anna Caballero**, representing the 12th State Senate District

The mapping that we have as to where we have internet is unreliable. What we have learned from the pandemic is that we don't have the service or the speed necessary for people to operate in the 21st century. The more we rely on the internet the more we are going to have to make the commitment to build the infrastructure.

- **California State Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula**, representing the 31st Assembly District

It is important to try to reimburse the rates for telehealth visits during the pandemic. We should look forward to seeing telehealth as the future, the new norm and the silver lining that can come out of this pandemic.

- **Gladys N. Palpallatoc**, Associate Vice President, California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

CETF's mission is to close the digital divide in the state. CETF was an original partner with the California Telehealth Network. The board has renewed focus on telemedicine and telehealth this year as COVID hit. In addition to rural communities, there has been focus on unserved households in low income communities. As was demonstrated in COVID, needs in low income communities were greatly impacted for families who didn't have connectivity or affordability issues.

One reform they encourage is the allowance of engagement of local government policy work for the Consortia. There is a Preferred Scenario that the Consortia and Fresno State has completed. The Preferred Scenario is a tool for the Consortia to have a foundation and a way to engage local elected officials and administrators in county, regional and state level.

- **Robert Tse**, Senior Policy Advisor at USDA, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, Assistant Administrator's Office for Telecom

The USDA has multiple available programs for funding. The Telecommunication Infrastructure loan and guarantee program is funded up to \$690 million annually. Many applicants are rural telephone companies. 11 out of 90 applications were approved in fiscal 2019. It is focused on rural communities of 5,000 or less.

The Rural Broadband Access Loan Program, also known as the Farm bill loan program, has an authorized \$92 million for 2020. Loan amounts are between \$100,000 and \$25 million. Applications should open later this year and is available to rural communities of 20,000 or less.

The Community Connect Grant Program is authorized for \$45 million in 2020. This program has new farm bill regulations that are being adopted. It should open later this year. This is a competitive program, 12 out of 62 applications were approved last year.

The Distance Learning Telemedicine Grant Program closes July 13th. A total of \$96 million is available with an additional \$25 million from the CARES Act. The grant range is \$50,000-\$1 million. In 2019, 145 out of 146 applicants received awards.

The Reconnect Program is estimated to bring high speed Broadband to 172,000 households, 19,000 rural small businesses and farms, and 500 health centers and education facilities located in 34 states. The FCC will direct up to \$24 billion over 10 years to finance Broadband in unserved rural areas. \$680 million is reserved to support 5G networks. The FCC has offered all federally recognized tribes free 2.5 gigahertz Spectrum on their land.

VI. Public and Board Comments

There were no comments.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Chiesa and Eduardo Gonzalez thanked all Board members and meeting hosts for their time and attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

2020 Partnership Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

2020

DATE	COUNTY
March 20th	Merced
June 19th	Tulare
September 18th	San Joaquin
December 11th	Fresno

*Meeting schedule is tentative

* 2020 meetings will be adjusted due to COVID-19 crisis

Meeting Scheduling

- Meetings are typically scheduled on a quarterly basis on the third Friday of the month with the exception of December.
- Meetings are typically scheduled from 10am to 3pm.