**EVSP Steering Committee Agenda**

Human Service Agency, Pepper Tree Conference Room

855 Partridge Drive, Ventura, CA 93009

3/29/2019

In attendance: Sabrina Anderson (CEO); Talia Barrera (HSA); Vanessa Bechtel (VCCF); Steve Bennett (Supervisor Bennett); Stephanie Bertsch Merbach (VCCF); Claire Briglio (EDC); Cindy Cantle (Supervisor Bennett); Gary Cushing (Camarillo Chamber of Commerce); Rebecca Evans (WDB); Amanda Fagan (NBVC); Matthew Fienup (CLU); John Frazier (City of Camarillo); Phil Hampton (CSUCI); Tracy Hudak (CreativityWorks); Rachel Linares (CEO); Melissa Livingston (HSA); Anthony Mireles (Local 585); Mike Pettit (CEO); Kim Prillhart (RMA); Stacy Roscoe (Civic Alliance); Jessica Ruiz (CEO); Paul Stamper (CEO); Bruce Stenslie (EDC); Phylene Wiggins (VCCF); Alexandra Wright (VCCCD); Barry Zimmerman (HSA)

**Action Items:**

* Information to post to the Steering Committee Website:
  + CEDS information
  + Farmworker Resource Program materials
* Reconvene the Quality of Life Definition Subgroup to continue metrics discussion

1. County of Ventura Internships
   * A lot of county agencies are engaged with internships (currently taking an inventory of the current County opportunities – will share once compiled).
   * High school paid internship has just opened – already have applicants.
     1. Students work and learn about the government.
     2. About 160 hours total, around 24 hours per week
     3. Work in one Agency, but have exposure in other Agencies
     4. Presentation required at the end of the internship
   * Administrative Paid Internship – focused on college-age students
     1. Runs fall and spring semesters
     2. Combines project work with soft skill training
2. EVSP Accomplishments and Measures Review/Revise
   * Kids Museum is located in Camarillo.
   * Update status that the VCCF did receive the California Grant for the 2020 Census.
   * Dr. Damooei has completed research on the early childhood education – Vanessa will review and then send out to the group.
   * Any additions can be sent to Paul or Rachel asap to include in the report.
3. Support for Diversity and Inclusion
   * WDB – looking for diversity in the County workforce but also within businesses. Focusing on job seekers, diversity and inclusion in bringing people to the table and valuing their perspectives and beliefs. Also recognize the diversity of the census workers, so that our volunteers and those who are actually hired by the Census are representational of their populations and the HTC populations.
   * VCCF – with the 2020 Census, there are multiple languages at the table for the complete count committee. Need to look for those leaders within our community, who are not currently involved here, but need to be. There is emerging talent that Vanessa is seeing, true leaders within their communities, that need to be invited into this bigger group. Now at 150 members for the CCC, expect to increase to about 500+.
   * Civic Alliance – one of the values is the economic, but it covers much broader. The focus needs to be on building the economy so that everyone has the chance to excel.
   * EDC – has become more aware of all the Spanish speaking clients they serve – this year it was about 20%. They are making an effort to provide their materials in Spanish, also reaching out to the West-side community, being more deliberate in their activities.
   * EDC - US Chamber of Commerce has created an initiative around D&I. Businesses that have and implement D&I policies outperform their competitors. Unsure of data behind the study, but helps acknowledge this importance.
   * CreativityWorks – for all workshops and meetings, bilateral translation is a game-changer. All materials being available in both languages also triggers readers and attendees to keep their perspective open to multiple languages, that we are making room at the table for multiple languages. Offering childcare or child activities and food also helps draw attendance meetings and workshops. Navigation of the intergovernmental gaps is problematic – don’t see themselves reflected within the agencies that they are dealing with. Smaller businesses tend to fall within these policy gaps
   * WDB – revision of the WDB local plan includes the diversity and inclusion. CalFresh outreach focus, new media outreach. WDB was writing a pilot for an English learner pilot program, based off of census data. If you are bringing together a new group, use the best data that we have and see if the data “matches” the composition of the room.
   * CLU – CERF has executed a research agreement (funded by Wells Fargo) to create the 2019 Latino GDP report. This will focus on the firm and household level (self-reported data), then build up to estimate the contribution of Latino households. Will be released in San Diego (3-day event). Represents the 7th largest economy in the world, 3rd fastest growing economy in the world, higher rates of labor force participation rate, new business creation, home ownership growth and education attainment. Makes their contributions critical. This then forces us to ask how inclusive of an economy is Ventura County?
   * NBVC - Generational diversity is also present – need to include more of the younger generation in community development and planning activities.
   * Unsure what metrics to use that will provide meaningful evaluation and direction. Need to reconvene the sub-group that had already met on this topic. Need to be careful about data presentation and the story that they tell – more than just the headline numbers.
4. Economic Summit, 2019 Road to Shared Prosperity
   * The goal is to promote the notion that we understand promoting business prosperity is shallow if it is not broadly shared and according to a Triple-Bottom-Line.
   * Former Co-Chair of the California Economic Summit is now the State’s Chief Economic Advisor. Working with him to develop guidelines and priorities.
   * State is inviting each region to identify 10 action priorities that will anticipate the State could effectuate or let us handle the priorities on our own. There are 6 areas that Bruce would like to highlight:
     + 1. P. 6 – reference to California Dream Index (social prosperity index, identifying upward mobility or barriers to). Provides common baseline information. About to be released. Was recommended that the State help finance and proliferate the accessibility and use by organizations.
       2. P. 6 – Priority actions for 2019 and the creation of an Empowerment fund. Available for co-investments with philanthropies and local government.
       3. P. 7 – Early Childhood Development. Already invested in strategies locally, could relate also to Long-Term care. Help streamline the distribution of funds.
       4. P. 8 – sustainable fund relative to Public-Private initiatives supporting workforce intermediaries.
       5. P. 14 – regional broadband consortia
       6. P. 11 – Opportunity Zones. Focuses on reinvestment of capital gains. State policy creating tax structure that allows maximum tax benefits for investments within these zones.
   * Need to go through EVSP recommendations and see where they align. Need to respond before end of April. Could get results as soon as the May Revise, if we get our information in quickly.
   * Contracting with the Brookins Institute for assistance in this creation.
   * Need strong statement or ask, supported by about a 150-word narrative stating the value proposition and some element of process, as to how help could arrive. Be sure to include what the state can actually do to help (not just policies or rhetoric).
   * Overcome obstacles to increasing density. Density bonuses (for low-income and affordable housing). If there was some way during CEQA review, can there be beneficial credit for having positive density – give credit for additional density.
     + 1. City of Sacramento Citizens Planning Academy – also have a Central Coast Planning Academy – will determine when it will be back in Ventura County Area (Kim Prillhart will find information)
5. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update
   * Will go to public comment – will take a more in-depth look at the next EVSP meeting in May.
   * Economic information, general regional data, SWOT analysis, development of regional objectives and goals, and a set of performance metrics. Will align with the Roadmap to Prosperity, CA Dream Index and EVSP.
   * Anything in the SWOT analysis that is missing, please sent to Alex right away.
   * Port of Hueneme completed their own CEDS report.
   * Required in order to be considered for the US Department of Commerce investment.
6. Workforce Regional Plan Update
   * Want to make the best use of funding, preventing duplication of payment or funding.
   * Looks to make sure the resources put into WIOA reach the members of the community who will most benefit from the assistance.
   * Discuss partnerships with other services within HSA (CalFresh, Medi-Cal and CalWorks) and our work with CDSS.
   * Prison to Employment Strategic Plan – assist those involved with the justice system (justice-involved individuals). Could be formerly incarcerated or other situations. Often a tie between the ability to have and grow income, and a reduced likelihood of recidivism.
     + 1. Had 50 partners participate in the strategic plan
       2. Created a grant proposal for the state. Amount will be based on the justice-involved population. Might receive about 700K from the state, but will look for other funding to support
   * An additional opportunity is that the Federal SNAP program has an employment and training component. For those currently serving the CalFresh population, there is an opportunity for a 50% match of federal funds to help support programs. Will open up a Request for Qualifications process in the near future.
7. Future of Long-term Caregiving
   * Population of over 80 will be tripling in the next several years while the number of caregivers (caregiver ratio) is dropping (from 6:1 to 2:1).
   * Need to remind that the aging population will just accelerate in the upcoming years.
   * Opportunities:
     + 1. Businesses focused on aging population
       2. Aging entrepreneurs – how can we support and capture these ideas
       3. WDB – families bear the brunt of the financial and non-financial costs of providing the care (lost wages). How can we incorporate policies to support care-giving within businesses (flexible working conditions; paid time off) while still maintaining productivity.
          1. How many organizations provide paid time off? Other ways of showing support
       4. Technology
8. Farmworker Resource Program and Agricultural Apprenticeship Workshop
   * County BOS approved pilot program last year (support with 200K in funding)
   * Recognizes that agriculture is important to our economy, and we are experiencing a shortage in farmworkers
   * Have hired the resources (2 tri-lingual individuals – English, Spanish and Mixteco)
   * Will have a formal kick-off in the next couple of months
   * Focus on growing the relationship between workers and employers – get a handle on what issues they are actually experiencing.
   * Will have a significant amount of community outreach and materials to provide to the community
   * Special thanks to the VCCCD for making agriculture a priority career path.
   * Data and documentation of resident laborer population – John Krist (VC Farm Bureau) is the best source of information.
9. General Comments
   * Vanessa, Eric and Brian are meeting to develop an executive summary related to disaster resiliency. Want to leverage connections in order to invest in Fire-Resistant technologies. Prevent or fight fires in our county.
   * Housing Trust has a 10M grant, but need to raise an additional 10M match within 2 years. May 30th there will be an event, need to engage businesses, try to get some sponsors to try and raise the needed funds. Funds will be put towards low-income and farmworker housing. Businesses can do a 1-5 year loan, be paid back and still help secure this funding stream for the Housing Trust.
   * Barry Zimmerman is leading some initiatives based on awareness of social mobility, poverty awareness and obstacles to mobility.
   * Next year’s budget for Community College and Adult Education is at a 300M+ deficit. Posing some significant challenges
   * Received state support and funding for Agricultural Supervisor Development Program. Developing a field apprenticeship program.
   * EVSP Presentation to BOS will be rescheduled for May (either the 7th or the 21st).
   * Ventura Startups will be starting April 5th.