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Governance & Public Relations Committee Meeting

Date Thursday, November 6, 2025

Time 12:00 pm MST

Place Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
304 Texas Avenue, First Floor Conference Room, El Paso, Texas 79901

Board Members Present

Leonard Goodman, III; Chair
Ruben Chavez
Crystal Davis
Eduardo Garcia
Christina Gonzalez
Emma Nevarez
Mica Short
Ruben H. Torres

Board Members Absent

Michelle Fenton
Adam Valdez

Staff Members Present

Leila Melendez
Abigail Ruiz

Denisse Najera
Esther Becerra

Karina Castillo
Odette Flores

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE

Leonard Goodman, Governance & Public Relations Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. MST. Quorum was cited.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- A:** Discussion and Action to approve the Board Officers for 2026 and 2027 for the Board of Directors of the Workforce Solutions Borderplex Inc. to be effective January 1, 2026, as recommended by the Nominating Committee and to bring forth to the General Board for final approval.

Recommendation from the Board Nominating Committee:

- a. Board Chairperson
- b. Vice Chairperson
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer

Motion (Short/Davis) to approve the Board Officers for 2026 and 2027 for the Board of Directors of the Workforce Solutions Borderplex Inc. to be effective January 1, 2026, as recommended by the Nominating Committee and to bring forth to the General Board for final approval. Recommendation from the Board Nominating Committee: a. Board Chairperson – Ruben Torres; b. Vice Chairperson – Ruben Chavez; c. Secretary – Michelle Fenton; d. Treasurer – Chelsie Evaldi

- B:** Discussion and Action on proposed Committee structure, membership and 2026 calendar. *(Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer)*

Ms. Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer, discussed the possibility of using Ad Hoc committees instead of standing committees. The bylaws currently include the Executive, Governance, and Audit committees. The item was tabled and will be revisited at the November 20th Strategic Planning Session.

- C:** Discussion and Action to appoint former Board members Frank Spencer and Bobby Alcala to the Advisory Committee. *(Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer)*

Motion (Torres/Short) to appoint former Board members Frank Spencer and Bobby Alcala to the Advisory Committee.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A:** Discussion and review of the Board Member roster *(Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer)*

Ms. Melendez presented and reviewed the board member roster with the Committee.

- B:** Discussion and update on Meeting with Fort Bliss leadership *(Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer)*

Ms. Melendez discussed how staff contacted Mayor Johnson to inquire whether Fort Bliss needs a civilian workforce, what their future plans are on base, and what they anticipate happening there over the next five years, so that staff can prepare accordingly. The leadership at Fort Bliss provided guidance on their needs, such as suppliers and companies to contract for their requirements. It was a valuable conversation aimed at assisting military exit personnel and aligning with educational institutions to better prepare them.

- C:** Discussion and update on upcoming Chief Elected Official meeting and selection of Lead Chief Elected Official. *(Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer)*

Ms. Melendez explained that WSB has a board of governors, and they must elect a chair. Staff will meet with them next week. We expect the Mayor to volunteer as the Lead CEO. We have a partnership agreement with the counties and the city, and we are amending it to specify that if they execute an incentive agreement, they must notify us about the workforce so we can document it. We need to hold this meeting before December 31st.

- D:** Discussion and update on Communications Department activities:

(Alondra McDuffie, Communications Manager)

- Hiring Red White & You! hiring event
- Government shutdown response
- CareForce enrollment
- Brand recognition efforts

Ms. Denisse Najera, Multimedia Outreach Specialist, provided an update on the Communications Department's activities and announced that the Hiring Red White & You! job fair will be held on Thursday, November 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Regarding the government shutdown, Ms. Najera stated that WSB posted on social media about the assistance being offered to those affected and issued a press release. She also discussed updates to flyers as part of the brand recognition efforts. Concerning CareForce enrollment, the website has been updated, and outreach events are scheduled at the YWCA.

4. ADJOURN

A: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m. MST