



**CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2026
SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING
MINUTES**

Friday, May 8, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Frank Quintero

I. CONVENE QUATERLY CAC MEETING

- a. Meeting opened by Chairperson Frank Quintero.
 - i. Chairperson Quintero called the meeting to order at 9:00am and started the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call.
 - i. DAS Chief Adele Burnes conducted the roll call.
 - ii. Members Present: Louis Ontiveros, Alex Beltran, Hugo de la Torre, Randall Chenworth, Earl Restine, Frank Quintero, Chuck Poss (remote), Richard Harris, Sheri Learmonth, Shelly Doran, Jack Buckhorn, Gary Adams, Stefania Stanley, and DAS Chief Adele Burnes. There was an in-person quorum.
 - iii. Members Absent: Larry Hopkins, Mark Burri, Yvonne de la Peña, Jason Rafter.
- c. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - i. There was a motion and a second for approval of the minutes for the 1st Quarterly Meeting in San Pedro, California. All approved. The motion carried.
- d. Executive Session – None
- e. Announcements
 - i. Jamie Mather is the new Assistant Chief over Apprenticeship Operations, which means that he is formally the Staff Aid to the CAC.
- f. Communications
 - i. A letter was received from Daniel Terry appointing Stefania Stanley as his designee for today's meetings.

II. BUSINESS SESSION

- a. Legal Matters – Deputy Attorney General stated the only legal matter is the McVeigh apprentice appeal, which is pending in the Superior Court.
- b. Apprenticeship Complaint Findings/Decisions by the Administrator of Apprenticeship - None
- c. Notice of Appeals during the Quarter – None

- d. Pending Appeals – None
- e. CAC Appeals Panel Decisions – None
- f. Chief’s Report- DAS Chief Adele Burnes
 - i. Foremost focus is on getting through the backlog of program revisions and registrations.
 - ii. Working and brainstorming on youth apprenticeship.
 - iii. In Q1 we provided a significantly updated program lookup tool that is also on the DAS homepage. Also added a gender filter to the completion’s dashboard.
 - iv. Working on aligning our sectors towards the advanced CTE career cluster framework. Right now, we are using the SIC Codes as a way of digesting our data. Since there are about 148, we are looking to consolidate the data framework and will work with our education partners, California Department of Education (CDE) and the Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO).
 - v. The Employer Ambassador Program is open for nominations, and we are looking to identify some exemplary employers that are employing apprentices and treating their workers well. Nominations are open through July 1st.
 - vi. We are arriving at the midpoint of the Round 2 ERICA Grant with 25 grantees collectively awarded \$26 million across three categories of recruitment, worksite culture, and childcare. In the Q4 meeting, information will be provided for the ERICA Round 1 grant, it formally concluded June 30, 2025. However, 4 grantees were given extensions to different periods of time, the latest of which is June 30, 2026.
- g. CAC Training Fund Awards – Ben Palazzolo
 - i. The total awards issued for the CAC Training Fund was \$18,662,824.00 to 160 awardees, and those programs served 55,733 apprentices. There were payments that have done out for the awards, the latest of which was April 2026.
 - ii. For the 2026-27 application cycle, we plan to open up that application window in July or August.
 - iii. Every program was emailed a link to a feedback survey that is live through next Friday.
- h. California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Grant Reviews – Chief Adele Burnes
 - i. The purpose of the grant is supporting opportunity youth between the ages of 16 to 24 to access careers via IACA and fire trades apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships. We have done two rounds of these grants. COYA round 1 planning grants will have their performance period coming to an end on June 30, 2026. The COYA round 1 implementation grants extend through December 2026. And the round two grantees were announced in June of 2025 and are actively implementing their programs. Round three was an invite only round of the COYA grant, and is providing continuation of funding to effective Round 1 and Round 2 grantees. The continuation grant thresholds were that either the implementation grantees had to have served at least 40% of the participants they were contracted to serve by September 30, 2026, or for the planning grantees, they had to have gotten their program registered or final draft of their standards to us by December 5, 2025. The application period closed on February 2, 2026. We are putting forth three proposals that are in the fire trades and need to be formally

approved by the CAC.

a. 26COYAPI-107 Grant

- Title: Implementing EMT Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways for Opportunity Youth
- Organization: Foundation for California Community Colleges
- Dollar Amount: \$650,000
- Program/Occupation: Pre-Apprenticeship program for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in conjunction with American Medical Response (AMR) and their RAP (#101049)

b. There was a motion and a second for approval of the 26COYAPI-107. All approved. The motion carried.

c. 26COYAPI-108 Grant

- Title: EMS Corps: EMT and Paramedic
- Organization: Public Works Alliance
- Dollar Amount: \$900,000
- Program/Occupation: Pre-Apprenticeship program for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) with CALJAC as their RAP

d. There was a motion and a second for approval of the 26COYAPI-108. All approved. The motion carried.

e. 26COYAPI-109 Grant

- Title: Healthcare Pre-Apprenticeship Pathway for Opportunity Youth
- Organization: San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) Foundation
- Dollar Amount: \$600,000
- Program/Occupation: Healthcare Pre-Apprenticeship that offers a pathway into multiple healthcare careers, building on their existing partnership with CALJAC as their RAP for EMT apprenticeship

f. There was a motion and a second for approval of 26COYAPI-109 Grant.

All approved. The motion carried.

- i. Old Business – None
- j. New Business
 - i. The CAC Q3 meeting will be held on August 12th and August 13th at the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel and Marina on Shelter Island in San Diego, California.
 - ii. The CAC Q4 meeting will be held on October 28th and October 29th in Visalia, California.
 - iii. The chairperson for 2028 for the CA Conference on Apprenticeships will be Preston Reel with SoCal Pipe Trades and the co-chairperson will be Commissioner Randall Chenworth.

III. EDUCATION AGENCIES REPORT

- a. California Community Colleges – Gary Adams, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
 - i. Gary Adams, Chief Adele Burnes, Charles Henkels, and Krysti Specht will be doing a national presentation at the Apprenticeships for America Conference in Washington DC. It will be held May 19th- 21st.
 - ii. CCC will be requesting additional funding in the coming budget year for RSI.
 - iii. Presentation by Dr. Sabrina Lopez
 - a. Updates to the RSI website Nova.
 - b. Working with Allison Frenzel to update the RSI language and as of this week it is currently with the Education Audit Appeals Panel, the EAAP and they have until July 1st to fully adopt the updated audit language to ensure that both the California Community College system and the CDE systems are 100% identical. Once approved will be adopted for the next school year.
 - c. California Apprenticeship Initiative. The notification of award was released on April 14th, and they received 178 applications. Only able to fund 25 that fully utilized all the funding that we were appropriated by the Department of Finance. Once the appeals are reviewed, the intent to award will be moved to their Board of Governors to be fully adopted in their May 19th meeting and the grants will begin on July 1st.
 - d. They awarded fifteen apprenticeship implementation projects, six pre apprenticeship implementation projects, and four apprenticeship expansion projects.
 - e. Discussed upcoming RSI training opportunities.

- b. California Department of Education – Jack Buckhorn
 - i. Alison Frenzel could not attend the meeting today but will look forward to the report in the next quarterly meeting.

III. **REPORT OF ADMINSTRATIVE AND COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) Public Works – None
- b. Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) Electrical Certification Unit – Melinda Davis, DLSE Assistant Chief of Licensing & Registration - None
- c. U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Office of Apprenticeship (USDOL/ETA/OA) – Aaron Wall, Deputy Regional Director for Region 6 for the Office of Apprenticeship, Acting California State Director.
 - i. [Circular 2026-01](#)
 - a. This replaces Circular 2016-01 that was felt to have some guidance in there that was not based in the regulation. This Circular provides guidance expanding flexibilities in apprenticeship and no longer enforcing a hard limit on modifications of time length and hybrid programs. All occupations need to have at least 2,000 hours.
 - ii. [Circular 2026-02](#)
 - a. This applies to all the recognized state apprenticeship agencies and does not grant new authorities.
 - iii. [Circular 2026-03](#)
 - a. This is reaffirming efforts to improve transparency around the calculation of completion rates in registered apprenticeship. Also, they have a beta website that helps people know the completion rates are in various industries
 - iv. [Bulletin 2026-35](#)
 - a. This Circular is regarding the 30-day registration commitment. Their data shows two days, so they are making decisions on completed applications timely.
 - v. Pay for Performance Incentive Payment program has \$145 million and is in the review stage right now with five cooperative agreements. In the industries of shipbuilding and defense, industrial base, artificial intelligence, semiconductor, nuclear energy infrastructure, IT, healthcare, transportation, and telecommunication. They have already issued several cooperative agreements.
 - a. One example of this is the American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund that was given to the state of Arkansas to administer. This is a pay for performance model that gives up to \$3,5000 for every registered apprentice in the manufacturing sector.
 - b. Commissioner Jack Buckhorn had two questions about what formula are they using for the completion percentages and are they counting first year apprentices in that formula? Aaron responded by stating that they exclude the probationary period from those calculations which is 25% or one year and all apprentices thereafter are included.
 - c. Commissioner Gary Addams asked how California can apply for one

of those cooperative agreements. Aaron mentioned that the period has passed so California cannot apply. But once awarded in each one of those sectors, then California, an apprenticeship program, should be able to apply directly to each one of those. But Aaron cannot guarantee that give California's unique status in the registered apprenticeship world.

- d. Meg Vasey, representing the National Task Force on Tradeswomen's Issues. She stated that they published a small comment on these latest sets of guidance and the bulletin. Glad that the 2601 flexibility guidance maintains the 2,000-hour requirement. First the earn while you learn principle of apprenticeship is the promise that we made in the Fitzgerald Act in 1937. This is a federal and not state guidance and it is only that. At the core we are helping the apprentices, and she appreciated the guidance.
- e. John Upshaw discussed his background in relation to apprenticeship. He thanked Aaron Wells for his presentation, and he mentioned the widening gap between federal and state regulations. The OA Circular 20-26-02 does not use the words transparency and seems to be lacking in it. He mentioned the 2003 petition and the Government Code 11349, OAL Decision 030320802. He also mentioned Government Code 11340.5, OAL Determination 2170212001, the AGC San Diego 2015 case involving Horn Decision and Sierra Singleplay, the ERISA preemption. Chairperson Frank Quintero asked for John to hold his thought and finish under public comment.
- d. Tradeswomen Inc. -
 - i. Juanita Douglas highlighted that the first ever 12-week pre apprentice hands on training for Golden Gate Village had a graduated of 21 students during the first quarter.
 - ii. Working on getting students to work in various areas and working on getting additional funding for running more programs. They have received an empowerment grant of \$75,000.
 - iii. Stating their third class on May 15th which consists of 25 students, and they provided all the necessary training items.
 - iv. Every quarter they prepare the students for mock interviews which helps them in the hiring process.
- e. Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles (W.I.N.T.E.R) - None
- f. California Association for the Advancement of Apprenticeship Training (CAAAT)
 - i. Kris Georgeson highlighted their report and said it would be posted online later. ABC of Southern California, Northern California, and San Diego have all been to our local ABC nationals and all three of them came home with different medals.
 - ii. The NorCal and SoCal ABC's have been busy promoting their ERICA grants with recruitment and worksite culture. All the CAAT members have been focused on recruitment events focusing on veterans, women, high school youth, and Department of Rehabilitations.
- g. California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association (CACA)

- i. Hannah Holden stated they opted to not have a meeting at the event, so they did not have report.
- h. K-12 Local Education Agency Representative – None
- i. Community College Apprenticeship Provider Representative
 - i. Chris Allen highlighted that during the National Apprenticeship Week, they hosted apprenticeship and career fairs which connected employers and students to registered apprenticeship programs. They were held at Chabot-Las Positas, American River, Golden West, Mission College, San Diego Community College, and Delata College.
 - ii. Highlighted Santiago Canyon College. Rio Hondo that had 785 apprentices completing their program and getting their certificate of completion. The Department of Labor visited them, and their visit was to be only three hours, but it turned into five due to how they were impressed with the partnership between the community college and the program sponsors.
 - iii. For the last four years they have been working on a baccalaureate degree proposal for the building and construction trades. His colleague, Phuong Tran has worked hard to get a couple of iterations. It is the Bachelor of Science in Building Trades Management. It is the first degree in the state that bridges apprenticeship to a four-year degree, and they are working to get this program up and running by the fall of 2027. The prerequisite would be for you to complete a registered apprenticeship program.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. John Upshaw continued with his comments. He discussed OA circulars which he states have not appeared on any of the agendas since 2008. He mentioned that 2601 is connected to the California regulator notice. The State of California office of Administrative Law decision regarding disapproval of rulemaking actions. So, he knows of a couple of those that are in the making right now and should coincide with the problem of the cases that are being brought by the DLSE. Upshaw continued, quoting President John F. Kennedy that the Constitution makes state and federal governments not rivals for power but partners for progress. He stated that both entities need to continue to work together and not use APA regulations that were found to be as underground regulations and that the agencies continue to keep these regulations in the law. He felt like it was wrong to continue using these regulations and feels like they are protecting a system that has become a little bit outdated.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned in the memory of recently departed Hall of Fame Member Larry Mazzola Sr. at approximately 10:24am.