



SISKIYOU COUNTY EDITION



America's **JobCenter**
of CaliforniaSM

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

July - Sept 2026

CWA Meeting of the Minds

SMART leadership staff attended the California Workforce Association's (CWA) Meeting of the Minds 2026 conference, held September 8–10 in Monterey, California. The conference brought together workforce development executives, local workforce board members, policymakers, and other leaders from across the state to discuss the future of California's workforce system.

This year's conference focused on preparing California's workforce system for its next 30 years. Building on the lessons and accomplishments of CWA's first three decades, the conference explored emerging challenges and opportunities, including artificial intelligence, changing labor markets, evolving employer needs, and the importance of stronger regional partnerships.

A key takeaway from the conference was the recognition that workforce development is more than a collection of employment programs. It is a strategic ecosystem that depends on collaboration among government agencies, employers, education and training providers, community organizations, and workforce development leaders.

For SMART leadership, the conference also provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, connect with colleagues outside the office, and build a stronger sense of shared purpose. The knowledge and connections gained through events like Meeting of the Minds help SMART continue strengthening workforce services and creating meaningful opportunities throughout the four-county region we serve.



Inside This Issue

First 5 partnership strengthens us all
Page 4



HIRE Grant Milestone Event

In late August, SMART hosted a HIRE Grant Milestone Event at the Redding Library for enrolled clients. The event provided an opportunity to recognize and celebrate clients' efforts, accomplishments, and commitment to working toward their personal and professional goals.

Guest speakers from Vynca, Legal Services of Northern California, Redding Housing Authority, US Offsite, and Hope City Redding shared information about services and resources available to support clients along their career journeys.

The event was a meaningful opportunity to connect clients with community resources while recognizing the hard work and progress they have made toward building brighter, more stable futures.

Skills Trainings Pay Off!

During the past quarter, SMART Shasta supported participants in classroom training and supportive services for growing occupations throughout the North State. Training areas included Medical Assisting, Medical Billing and Medical Office Administration, Radiologic Technology, Fire Academy, Emergency Medical Technician, and California Life, Accident, and Health Insurance certification.

Participants successfully completed their training and went on to secure employment in the careers they had prepared for. Several Medical Assistant graduates were hired in areas aligned with their specific interests, including Health and Wellness, OB/GYN, and Cardiovascular care.

Participants attended programs through the Institute of Technology, Shasta College, Yuba College, Loyola Marymount University Distance Education, and the California Department of Insurance. Hiring employers included Prestige Medical Care, Dignity Health, and Cal Fire. These successes demonstrate the value of connecting participants with training opportunities that lead directly to growing occupations and meaningful careers. Congratulations to all of the participants on their accomplishments!



Delta's Success Story

Delta came to the SMART Workforce Center seeking support in finding long-term employment. She had never held a job before but was ready to build her skills and take her first steps into the workforce. Delta enrolled in SMART's Young Adult Program, which provides workforce support to young adults ages 18–24 who may face barriers to employment.

Delta and her Career Advisor worked together to prepare her for entering the workforce. They created a new resume, developed several cover letters, practiced interviewing, and completed mock interviews. Delta remained consistent with her job search, regularly applying for positions and staying engaged throughout the process. She attended every case management meeting and continued to demonstrate her determination to find stable employment.

As part of her participation in the program, Delta also chose to complete a series of workshops focused on workforce readiness, skill building, and financial literacy. She took the workshops seriously, came prepared, and approached each session with an open mind.

During this time, Danielle, the owner of Zephyr Books & Coffee, reached out to Delta's Career Advisor seeking resume referrals for an open part-time position. SMART has partnered with Zephyr Books & Coffee previously, successfully completing several work-based training opportunities for enrolled SMART participants. Knowing Delta's goals and the progress she had made, her Career Advisor recognized that she could be a great fit for the position and referred her to Danielle.

Delta interviewed for the position and was offered the job. Because this was her first formal employment opportunity, her Career Advisor and Danielle worked together to develop an On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunity that would provide Delta with additional training, guidance, support, and time to build confidence and learn the responsibilities of her position.

Delta has continued to improve her skills and adjust to the workplace, proving herself to be a great fit with the Zephyr Books & Coffee team. Her journey demonstrates how consistent engagement, preparation, employer partnerships, and work-based training can help a young adult take their first steps into the workforce and build a foundation for long-term employment.



Strengthening Community Ties

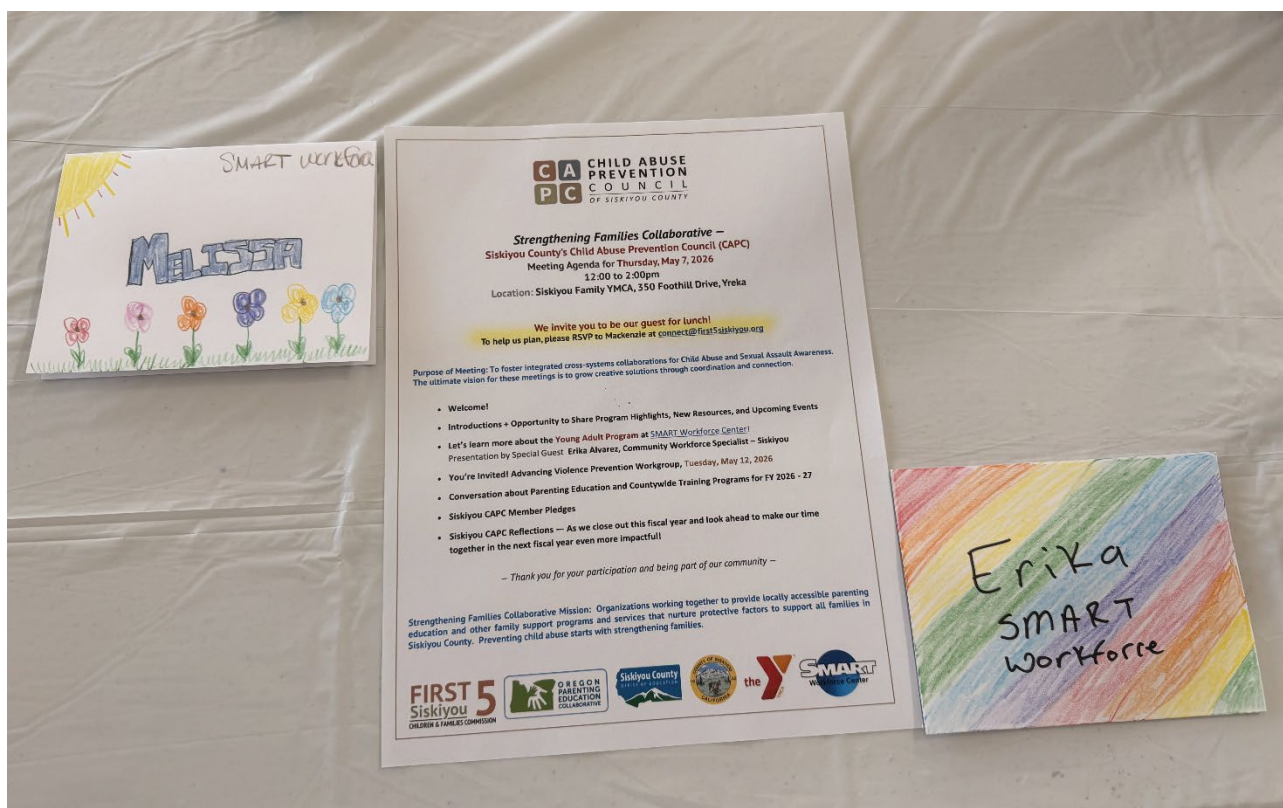
SMART Workforce Center continues to strengthen its partnership with First 5 Siskiyou, who is the designated Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). Erika Alvarez and Melissa Phillips from SMART have been participating in these collaborative meetings for violence prevention, community building, resource gathering, and family support. These meetings bring local organizations together to share program updates, identify community needs, and create stronger connections between services. The collaborative focuses on providing accessible family support, strengthening protective factors, and building stronger families and communities.

SMART has participated in three CAPC-connected meeting opportunities: Strengthening Families Collaborative, Advancing Violence Prevention, and Connection Café. Each provides an opportunity for agencies to share resources, identify gaps, and work together to better serve Siskiyou County.

The May “Strengthening Families Collaborative” meeting included Erika’s presentation on SMART’s Young Adult Program, giving partner agencies a better understanding of SMART’s workforce services and how young adults can be supported with education and employment goals. The July “Advancing Violence Prevention” meeting focused on mapping community resources, identifying unmet needs, and developing coordinated prevention strategies. The September “Connection Café” provided another space for agencies to highlight programs and resources available to local youth and families while building connections between providers.

Participation in these meetings allows SMART to better understand the challenges facing local families and community members while also helping other agencies understand when and how to connect community members with workforce services. By sharing resources, knowledge, and referrals, organizations can work together rather than separately, creating a more connected support system.

SMART Workforce Center is dedicated to building meaningful relationships with community agencies and remaining an active partner in Siskiyou County. These collaborations help identify service gaps, strengthen referrals, and coordinate support so community members have better access to the resources they need.



Nicolas's Success Story

Nicolas came to SMART after moving from one short-term job to another while struggling to earn enough to become self-sufficient. After being laid off, he decided it was time to pursue a longer-term career path. SMART worked with Nicolas to explore his options, and after researching careers in heavy trucking, he decided to pursue a Class A commercial driver's license. SMART helped guide him through the process of obtaining his permit, REAL ID, and other prerequisites for truck-driving school.

Nicolas worked diligently to complete each requirement in time for his training start date and moved directly into the program. He earned his Class A license with endorsements at the beginning of September.

Less than two weeks later, Nicolas secured a career with a major delivery company. He described the opportunity as life-changing and is excited to begin this next chapter of his career.



Siskiyou Fire Academy

The cadets at the College of the Siskiyous Fire Academy continue to demonstrate hard work, dedication, and leadership throughout their training. Each day, they are building the skills, discipline, and teamwork needed to serve their communities as future firefighters.

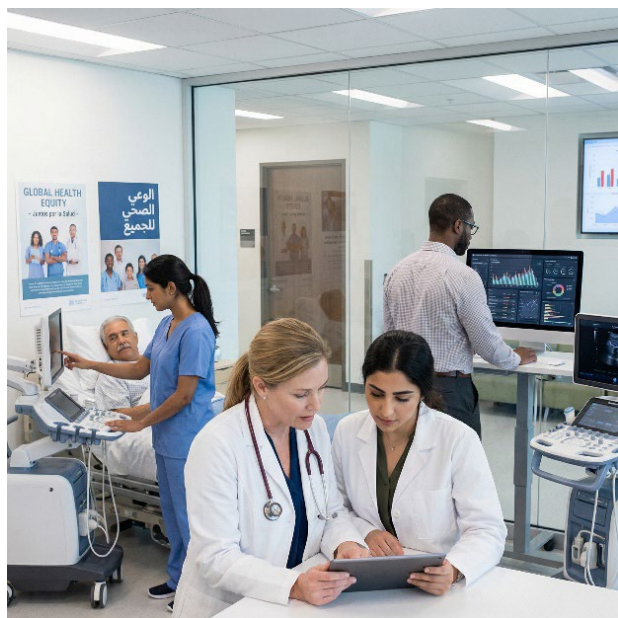
Among the cadets, two have taken on the important responsibility of serving as Squad Leaders, helping guide their fellow cadets, maintain accountability, and set a positive example during training. Their leadership reflects the trust and confidence placed in them by the academy.

Another cadet has stepped into the role of Battalion Chief, taking on an even greater leadership responsibility. This position requires communication, organization, decision-making, and the ability to lead others while maintaining high standards.

The accomplishments of these cadets are a reflection of their commitment to the fire service and the strong training environment at the College of the Siskiyous Fire Academy. Their hard work and leadership are helping build a strong foundation for successful careers in the fire service.



Supporting the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals



Shasta College's Fall 2026 semester began in August, and SMART is proud to support 10 clients as they work toward completing healthcare licenses and degrees. Seven participants are working toward completing their Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) programs this December. These students attend weekly lectures while also completing a minimum of 16 hours per week of clinical training. SMART's financial support allows them to focus on their education without the additional strain of working while completing their programs. SMART is also supporting three students completing Associate Degrees in Nursing (ADN). The final semester of the Shasta College ADN program requires 135 clinical hours in addition to four hours of class time each week. Students who complete the program will become Registered Nurses, with expected earnings of approximately \$66 per hour.

Supporting participants through their final semesters gives them the opportunity to complete their education and enter the healthcare workforce as skilled professionals.

Learning More About Services for Justice-Impacted Youth

SMART Center Young Adult Career Advisors attended an open house at the Shasta County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility to learn more about the services and resources available to justice-impacted youth. The facility provides a structured and supportive environment focused on rehabilitation and personal growth. Available assistance includes individualized education services, mental health counseling, substance-use treatment, life-skills development, recreation, and family and reentry support. Vocational and career planning activities are provided including hands on basic horticulture/farming and culinary. The visit gave SMART Career Advisors a better understanding of the programs and services available to support justice-impacted youth as they build skills and prepare for successful transitions back to their families and communities.



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Proud Partner of:



Proudly serving our community since 1979, SMART Workforce Center is a 501c3 non-profit committed to helping job seekers find jobs, increase training and skills, and increase earnings. We also invest in our local economy by helping businesses grow. To learn more, visit our website: www.thesmartcenter.biz

SMART Workforce Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities. CA Relay TTY 7-1-1

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