



workforce  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

**WSW Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 25, 2020**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**Conference Call, WSW**

**Executive Board Members Present:** Chair Bill Skidmore, Paige Spratt, A.D. Simmons, Kelley Foy, John Vanderkin, and Renny Christopher.

**Staff Members Present:** Kevin Perkey, CEO

**WELCOME**

Chair Bill Skidmore opened the meeting at 3:34 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**CEO REPORT**

**WSW COVID-19 Response**

- WSW Team Working Remotely – Except for Fiscal Team & CEO to provide access to fiscal system & resource support
- WorkSource & NEXT Closed to Public – Virtual Provision of Services, Cross training of staff for UI Claimant Processing
- Supporting Community Partners – Working to keep provision of services open through our partners (THRIVE, SummerWorks, etc.)
- Biz & Job Seeker Resources – WebEx Sessions for Biz & Employees (multiple held with partners)
- Communications – Organizing & publishing resources as they become available (Website, Social Media, Email, etc.)
- What We're Learning So Far
  - UI system is overwhelmed with requests from both employees and businesses (detailed picture to be released Thursday from State with new UI numbers)
  - First WebEx Biz Session, max at 100, with over 100 in "waiting room". Second session maxed at 75, anticipate increase this week due to Stay Home orders
  - Most inquires are basic (how do I enroll, what does stand-by mean, what is shared work, etc.) Anticipate these to become more complex as more people/biz enroll and face issues in the coming weeks/months
  - WSW creating IMPACT report to document and share what impact we're seeing locally on the system
  - **We're (WSW, WWA, ESD Leadership, NAWB, USCM WDC) share a vision that in times of crisis there is great opportunity. The opportunity in front of us is to**

**radically innovate and reorient our workforce development system and ensure we DO NOT snap back to the old normal, rather we fully embrace what will certainly become a NEW NORMAL for all of us.**

#### WWA Leadership & Policy

- State Policy Priorities
  - Waive 1 week waiting period for UI – WWA Led
  - Waive job search for claimants, now optional – WWA Led
  - Postponing Local Planning Requirements – likely 3-6 months
  - Reviewing a host of WIOA & UI State Level policies that would open up flexibility for biz/employees/Boards
  - Statewide Virtual Job Fair – WSW/WWA playing a leading role
- Federal Policies
  - \$100M DWG for States – Application due this Friday – WWA collaborating on – anticipate \$\$ to flow to WA
  - See attached for WWA & NAWB set of policy requests – Many have been enacted, several are being given serious consideration
  - \$360M in \$2T package that will be released today for DOL – Not enough, but another good start – fully anticipate a 4<sup>th</sup> round which should include more for DOL/Local Boards

#### WSW Continuing Business

- WSW Strategic Planning Process – Recommend pause for now, pickup in Summer
- WSW Board Committees Launch – Continue with recruitment and development, push first meetings until late April/May
- THRIVE Partners – Made require reevaluation
- Title I Contracting – Full speed ahead
- SummerWorks – Working on alternative model for this Summer

Discussion ensued with questions and comments addressed by Mr. Perkey.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further for the good of the order, Chair Skidmore adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.