

Members –

PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings will be 100% virtual for the foreseeable future. Our building is locked and only accessible to staff with key cards listed below. Please use the call-in information on the calendar invite. Any troubles, please let Traci or I know.

To say it's been a tremendous week and a half for all of us, is an understatement. For today's call I'd like to focus on the most critical pieces in front of us at the moment, namely the following:

Agenda

1. WSW COVID-19 Response
 - a. WSW Team Working Remotely – Except for Fiscal Team & CEO to provide access to fiscal system & resource support
 - b. WorkSource & NEXT Closed to Public – Virtual Provision of Services, Cross training of staff for UI Claimant Processing
 - c. Supporting Community Partners – Working to keep provision of services open through our partners (THRIVE, SummerWorks, etc.)
 - d. Biz & Job Seeker Resources – WebEx Sessions for Biz & Employees (multiple held with partners)
 - e. Communications – Organizing & publishing resources as they become available (Website, Social Media, Email, etc.)
 - f. What We're Learning So Far
 - i. UI system is overwhelmed with requests from both employees and businesses (detailed picture to be released Thursday from State with new UI numbers)
 - ii. 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
 - iii. 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
 - iv. WSW creating IMPACT report to document and share what impact we're seeing locally on the system
 - v. **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.**
2. WWA Leadership & Policy
 - a. State Policy Priorities
 - i. Waive 1 week waiting period for UI – WWA Led
 - ii. Waive job search for claimants, now optional – WWA Led
 - iii. Postponing Local Planning Requirements – likely 3-6 months
 - iv. Reviewing a host of WIOA & UI State Level policies that would open up flexibility for biz/employees/Boards
 - v. Statewide Virtual Job Fair – WSW/WWA playing a leading role
 - b. Federal Policies
 - i. \$100M DWG for States – Application due this Friday – WWA collaborating on – anticipate \$\$ to flow to WA

- ii. See attached for WWA & NAWB set of policy requests – Many have been enacted, several are being given serious consideration
- iii. \$360M in \$2T package that will be released today for DOL – Not enough, but another good start – fully anticipate a 4th round which should include more for DOL/Local Boards

3. WSW Continuing Business

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



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

WSW Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2020
3:30 p.m.
Mt. Rainier Board Room, WSW

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

Staff Members Present: Kevin Perkey, CEO, Barri Horner, and Traci Williams.

WELCOME

Chair Bill Skidmore opened the meeting at 3:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Having reached quorum, Chair Skidmore entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Joint Executive Board and Finance Committee minutes held on January 29, 2020, Contract Memo, Policy Memo, and the WSW Travel Policy Draft. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented with all in favor.

FINANCE

Chief Financial Officer Barri Horner presented the FY19 Q2 financial reports, including special projects and internal expenses, noting no major concerns. WIOA adult, WIOA dislocated worker, and WIOA youth are all on track for spending. Questions and comments were invited and addressed by Ms. Horner.

Ms. Horner also presented the Subrecipient Contract Performance Reports, noting no substantial concerns. Questions and comments were invited and addressed by Ms. Horner. Discussion ensued, and Ms. Horner will reach out to the Executive board with her finding on why there was no new enrollments in the WIOA Title I Youth.

WSW's Form 990 was also presented. Ms. Horner provided additional information to the members. A motion was entertained to approve the Form 990 was approved as presented with the provision that on page 1, line 3 and 4 will be changed from 9 to 8 members. Upon the motion duly moved and seconded and with no further discussion forthcoming, the motion passed with all in favor.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Perkey presented the Executive board with some updates on the 2020 NAWB trip, CWWC National Fund Concept Paper, updates on Launchpad developments, and the Youth Employment Summit (YES) that will be held on March 19th. Mr. Perkey also presented his committee structure timeline and how he saw each committee would look moving forward with this new model. Questions and comments were addressed by Mr. Perkey.

TITLE 1 YOUTH RFP

Mr. Perkey walked through the RFP proposals based on the scoring rubric that included four major criteria. Mr. Perkey invited questions and comments on the RFP recommendations. Following discussion, it was agreed that the WSW Executive Board take to the WSW full board, that WSW will invest in the ResCare Arbor Services Consortium for Clark and Cowlitz Counties, and Career Path Services for Wahkiakum County. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and following discussion, the motion carried with all in favor to be put in front of the full board at the March 11th meeting.

GOVERNANCE

Ms. Simmons updated the Executive Board, that she along with Mr. Perkey and Ralph Clark have had a chance to sit down with Michele Mulhern who would replace Bianca Kolle under the WIOA Partners sector. CEO Kevin Perkey, Ms. Simmons and Mr. Clark recommend both Michele Mulhern to be put forward to the full board for nomination. A motion was entertained to approve the nomination of Michele Mulhern for presentation to the full board at the March 11th meeting. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and following discussion, the motion carried with all in favor.

BOARD MEETINGS

The agenda for the March 11th Council meeting was discussed and approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for the good of the order, Chair Skidmore adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.



CEO REPORT

DATE: MARCH 25, 2020
TO: WSW EXECUTIVE BOARD
FROM: KEVIN PERKEY – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BUSINESS

Events on the Horizon

-

CWWC

-

Launchpad Development

-

Contracts

-

PEOPLE

Contracts

- Modifications for the Thrive Habitat for Humanity, ResCare, and Lower Columbia CAP Contracts are in process to update performance expectations.
- SummerWorks DVR contracts are in process with ESD 112, ResCare, and The Underdog Mentality.

Program Management + Procurement

- Contracts for Title 1 Youth PY 20 will begin negotiation April 1st externally and internally.
- WSW signed a contract with BlackBaud to begin development July 1st. This tool will allow for WSW to rethink and codify process and procedures for program development, financial tracking, and procurement.

Development

- The Opioid Prevention and Response grant will be submitted by Monday 03/16 for SW WA region. This funding will ensure an intentional and strategic approach towards service delivery for those who are in recovery.
- WSW and Kaiser Permanente will be coinvesting in a childcare + workforce model specific to companies in Cowlitz County. The investment amount is still to be determined.

COMMUNICATIONS

Elevate WSW's Brand

- Planning is underway for WSW's first 'Workforce & Waffles Community Conversation.' The topic will be Social Capital and the event will be held the morning of April 29 in WSW's new board room.

Initiatives Outreach

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Youth Employment Summit (YES) schedule for March 19 was postponed. We are discussing possible dates and options with the school districts and businesses.
- Five proposals were received in response to an RFP for a digital outreach campaign to assist with increasing Thrive job seeker registrations. Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated and a contract drafted.

SYSTEM

- Local plan out for public comment through March 31st, which highlights several new initiatives (RESEA, BFET) and includes updates regarding ongoing initiatives (Thrive, ISD)
- Two proposals received for Wahkiakum County Community outreach. See Memo to CEO for Recommendation
- COVID 19 contingency planning with local service providers and state partners. Service provider staff receiving regular communication with updates, precautions, and protocols.

FUNDING, ADMINISTRATIVE & OPERATIONS

- Posted the Accountant II position.
- Conducted interviews for the Receptionist position and close to choosing an applicant.
- Recommendations are moving forward through our IT Services procurement. This is a shared contract with CREDC.

March 20th, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, the U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the national workforce system, the more than five hundred workforce development boards, and the 2500+ American Jobs Centers, the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) is reaching out during this time of crisis.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has impacted Americans in every state, region, and locality. The economic impacts of this crisis are unfolding in real time as jobless claims are at a two year high across the nation and expected to climb. During these unprecedented times, as the nation struggles with the COVID-19 outbreak and its effect on our economy, health, and everyday lives, Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and other stakeholders in the workforce development system are rising to the challenge as “first responders” for workers and business. Between lay-offs, job insecurity, illness related absences, and healthcare workforce shortages it is critical that Congress ensures local WDBs can remain agile and operate at peak capacity to help the U.S. labor either retain employment or reduce their period of unemployment, at the same time, providing business with the skilled labor force it needs.

To ensure that Americans can speedily return to work, address unemployment and return economic strength, NAWB urges Congress to act immediately as part of this Phase 3 package:

Appropriate an additional \$5.47 billion for WIOA funding.

- With extensive consultation of local workforce development boards and consideration of the “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act” passed during the financial crisis of 2008, NAWB recommends an additional \$5.47 billion to be appropriated through WIOA formula funds for use through 6/30/23 to be added to current appropriated WIOA formula funds as follows:
 - \$1.2 billion for adult services, including paid work experience up to the average of the hours worked per week in the last quarter increase from 20% to 40% from support of incumbent workers, and supportive services; including assistance to non-employer attached workers;
 - \$1.5 billion for youth services including summer and paid experience for youth to age 24 consistent with WIOA regulations, and reducing the percent for out-of-school youth services from 75% to 50% provided the increase in funds for in-school youth are used to support the establishment of partnerships between local WDBs and public schools to provide enhanced career guidance, including the allowance of career services delivery in schools by WIOA funded staff;
 - \$2 billion for dislocated worker employment and training;
 - \$500 million for national emergency grants;

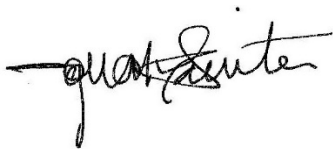
- \$50 million for YouthBuild;
- \$120 million for Community Service Employment for Older Americans;
- \$50 million for reemployment services through Wagner-Peyser programming.
- \$50 million the purpose of providing competitive grants for reemployment programs targeting long-term unemployed workers.

Ensure local WDBs can move swiftly to maximize impact.

- To ensure maximum flexibility and effectiveness for every local area NAWB requests legislative language to address the following;
 - The elimination of time requirements for workers to classify as “dislocated”;
 - The relaxation of competitive grant procurement requirements, specifically for the build out of technology solutions for providing virtual services; which in part could be accomplished by raising the allowable administrative costs from 10% to 20%, as this where the majority of technology upgrades are charged
 - Making expansion of virtual platforms and virtual service delivery allowable program costs; and
 - Authority for WDBs to expand the Employment Training Provider List (ETPL) to include on-line and alternative providers of education and training during the crisis, with assurance that providers’ performance is vetted by local WDBs
 - Implement Presumptive Eligibility
 - Presume everyone that contacts our system to be eligible for WIOA Title I services (Basic, Individualized, and Training) and Title III (Wagner Peyser), helping increase throughput of our system and breakdown administrative barriers to access and service,
 - Waive document collection requirements allowing phone/self-attestation for program.

Thankfully, the infrastructure for the U.S. labor force to recover from this unprecedented crisis is already in place, the workforce development system. It is now up to Congress to bolster this system and provide it with the support necessary to ensure a rapid response to the millions of Americans effected by COVID-19 and the related economic fallout.

Sincerely,



Ronald D. Painter
President & CEO
National Association of Workforce Boards

cc:

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman, House Subcommittee on Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and Labor
Members, United States Senate
Members, United States House of Representatives

Recommendations from Washington State's Washington Workforce Association for a National Response to Unemployment Related to COVID-19

We sincerely appreciate your commitment to supporting Washington state's dedicated workers and employers, and the workforce system as we organize to support and stabilize our local communities. Your efforts thus far have been commendable, we are grateful for your continued leadership for our state and nation.

The executive leadership of the Washington Workforce Development Boards collectively as the Washington Workforce Association (WWA) represent the front-line responders to the looming national unemployment crisis in the state of Washington. WWA's membership service all Washington businesses and citizens in providing education, job training, employment and upskilling programs, including Washington's collaboration of 12 local workforce boards, local and state government entities, and ranging from small non-profit programs and WorkSource Centers (American Job Centers), literacy and vocational training to community colleges and other skills training organizations. Our diverse members have significant experience in mobilizing a response to national disasters like the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake and the 2014 Oso landslide responding to economic downturns that required new and innovative responses to support employers and workers.

Our ability to rapidly respond is predicated on the speed of the federal and state government's release of critical funding and removal of regulatory barriers. Below are our recommendations for a comprehensive federal response:

1. **Under the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Education Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):**
 - Implement Presumptive Eligibility
 - i. First, presume everyone that contacts our system to be eligible for WIOA Title I services (Basic, Individualized, and Training) and Title III (Wagner Peyser), helping increase throughput of our system and breakdown administrative barriers to access and service
 - ii. Second, waive document collection requirements allowing phone/self-attestation for program
 - Remove the State approval for 100% transfer of funding between Adult and Dislocated Worker and Youth funding, to allow local workforce areas the flexibility to immediately address the needs in a local area with existing resources
 - Virtual Service Delivery
 - i. Provide supportive services without seeing customers face to face and not requiring signatures – email attestation, phone attestation, also food as an allowable supportive service
 - Interagency & Eligible Partner Org Data Sharing for UI Customers
 - i. Breakdown barriers between agencies and subcontracted partners to share customer data to deliver shared outreach to people who need services, particularly across Titles with shared customers
 - Waive 20% WIOA youth program work experience expenditure requirements as we shift and blend resources to effectively meet immediate need of customers
 - Suspend Local/State Planning Requirements, Performance Negotiations, and spending obligation requirements through end of PY 2020

- Adjust Eligible Trainer Provider List Policies to account for school closures and allow previously eligible program online schools to be immediately eligible dependent on local determination
 - Increased funding through expanded WIOA or National Emergency Grant funding:
 - i. Akin to the unique circumstances following prior National Emergencies, rapidly expand occupations necessary for adequate COVID-19 response, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Healthcare workforce through dedicated healthcare short-term job training fund in response to COVID-19; including hospital, nursing home and home-based caregiving occupations and credentials
 - 2. Temporary Employment applicable to COVID-19 response, including drivers/delivery services; IT support occupations, HAZMAT, maintenance and cleaning, etc.
 - Increase in Dislocated Worker job training funds to respond to, and fund, eligible trainings on the statewide Eligible Training Provider List
2. **A coordinated federal response from the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Department of Labor to support employers:**
- Require State's eliminate all cumbersome paperwork for businesses to access grants to cover 3-6 months operating expenses for business with less than 25 employees; low or no interest payroll loans and grants; extended unemployment insurance, and other programs or resources to reduce the impacts of widescale unemployment
 - Expand and promote Shared Work
 - Set up a federal call center and webpage that clearly details resources available, application requirements, and average length of application to funding
3. **Provide National Emergency Dislocated Worker Funding or Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Rapid Response funding to rapidly expand online services for the federally funded American Job Center System, including but not limited to:**
- American Job Center equipment purchases for employees who are required to work from home and need to continue to provide services including:
 - i. Software to support remote work, such as video conferencing, virtual meetings and case management, secure web-based servers and remote access file storage to keep customer information confidential and free conference calling
 - ii. Lap top computers, phones and printers for remote work
 - iii. Increased bandwidth capabilities for State and Local Boards
4. **Dramatically expand Unemployment Insurance funding and extended Unemployment Insurance (UI) to support those laid off or unemployed due to business closure or economic decline due to COVID-19:**
- Waive the 5-day waiting period for receiving UI benefits
 - Provide funding, or require use of the UI Modernization Fund, to State's to move all service delivery online and provide adequate equipment for remote workforce service delivery
 - Expand part-time Shared Work program to allow unemployment insurance to pay a portion of an employee's salary if their hours are reduced but they are not fully laid off/to avoid full dislocation
 - Provide resources specific to supporting dislocated low-wage workers or vulnerable workers receive re-employment assistance and job training to adapt their skills for new careers

- Address work search requirements by allowing online job search activities and workshops to meet requirements, increasing our system’s capacity to serve those with limited access to opportunity
 - Ensure a federal disaster is declared, making Disaster Unemployment Assistance available to workers who would not otherwise be eligible for Unemployment Insurance, but who lose their jobs as a result of COVID-19, in particular independent workers including nannies, personal care aides, cleaners, for-hire drivers, and other freelance and “gig” workers
 - Ensure that any workers who are furloughed by their employer are eligible for Unemployment Insurance for the duration of their furlough, waiving the 90-Day exit period
5. **Additional regulatory relief and funding to provide maximum support to displaced and dislocated workers and reduce negative impacts of COVID-19:**
- Allow for States to request waivers to reduce the work participation under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and SNAP
 - Address federal student loan interest, as well as payments for room and board for students required to leave campuses due to school closure or move to online coursework
 - Expansion of social safety net programs to stabilized low wage workers, displaced and unemployed workers including:
 - i. Medicaid
 - ii. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - iii. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, cash assistance
 - iv. Social Security Disability Insurance
 - v. Paid family leave

Respectively submitting on behalf of the Washington Workforce Association.



Kevin Perkey
WWA – Chair
Workforce Southwest Washington – CEO



Tiffany Scott
WWA – Vice Chair
Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council – CEO