



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

**WSW Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020
4:00 p.m.
Zoom Conference Call**

Board Members Present: Darcy Altizer, Mike Backman, Ben Bagherpour, Chris Bailey, Jen Baker, Mike Bridges, Bob Carroll, Renny Christopher, Ralph Clark, Monte Constable, Kelley Foy, Bob Gustainis, Scott Haas, Ilona Kerby, Mara Kieval, Eddie Martin, Michele Mulhern, A.D. Simmons, Ted Sprague, Paige Spratt, and John Vanderkin.

Board Members with Excused Absences: Diane McWithey and Shannon Stull.

Board Members with Unexcused Absences: Bob Jungers.

Guests Present: Joseph Hennessey, Jesse Oliver, Lisa Schauer, L McWilliams, Susan Milke, Jeff Swanson, Kevin Jones, Brittany Mills, and Matt Sneed.

Staff Members Present: Kevin Perkey, Kathy Ashley, Narek Daniyelyan, Denise Elliott, Amy Gimlin, Darcy Hoffman, Barri Horner, Alyssa Joyner, Kari Kollander, Miriam Halliday, Sean Moore, Nicole Hopkins, Benton Waterous, and Traci Williams.

Welcome, Introduction of Members, Guests, and Staff

Chair Paige Spratt opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Members, guests, and staff introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Spratt entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the Council meeting held on September 9, 2020, Contract Memo, and Policy Memo; which included WSW Fraud and Incident Reporting Policy #1005 Rev 2 and WSW Data Privacy & Security Requirements Policy #2010.

Jen Baker moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, second by John Vanderkin. Motion carried.

Mike Backman, outgoing Wahkiakum Commissioner was recognized for his dedication of service on the board. Mr. Perkey and the full board wished him well in his next endeavor.

FISCAL REPORT

WSW Treasurer, Renny Christopher presented the budget memo to the full Board, highlighting that nine new grants were awarded to WSW and added to the budget totaling \$2,585,873. Treasurer Christopher also addressed that a line item for WIOA Contracting – Additional has been added to the budget -

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\$1,380.769. This represents the additional contracted obligations needed to meet the 80% obligation requirement this fiscal year if enforced by the Department of Labor through ESD.

WSW Board Treasurer, Renny Christopher and WSW Chief Financial Officer, Barri Horner, recapped the necessary budget revisions for the second half of the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2021. Following the presentation, questions were entertained and addressed by Mr. Perkey, Ms. Christopher, and Ms. Horner.

Mike Bridges moved to approve the January budget revision as presented, second by Ben Bagherpour. Motion carried.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Perkey shared with the board that WSW's Narek Danielyan, has been nominated for the Accomplished and Under 40 and thanking him for all his hard work for WSW. Mr. Perkey also wanted to update the board on the strategic planning process, acknowledging the hard work that has taken place with the staff, Strategic Task Force, and Point North Consulting. Since the Strategic Plan Board Retreat was held, WSW has held a series of community convenings and the first of three committee meetings which were held around People, Business, and Systems. With the feedback obtained, WSW is actively reframing the strategic plan and working on goal setting around Program, System, and Business. Mr. Perkey also shared the working strategic plan draft to the whole board, stating the goal is to have a plan going forward at the beginning of March and will share with the full board at the next March board meeting. Questions and comments were addressed by Mr. Perkey.

CHILDCARE MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Director of Programs, Miriam Halliday shared a presentation to the board around Thrive-Childcare + Workforce, highlighting some specific investments that WSW has invested in thus far in childcare. Ms. Halliday also shared a brief overview of what WSW's outcomes were wanted through Thrive. The three core values of Thrive remain investment, community organizing, and employer driven. It was noted that the main challenge that has been seen during phase 1, was the employees' inability to secure childcare has major effects for businesses and the economy. The outcome is to build and develop a new model for childcare in the workforce.

Ms. Halliday introduced WSW's new partner to Thrive, consultants, Kevin Jones and Jeff Swanson from Exigy who takes on the role of the neutral leader that provides negotiations with companies and childcare providers. Mr. Swanson presented to the board a presentation on their approach for finding the needs of childcare with the community. First steps included defining the problem and scope, which led to stakeholder engagement and interviews. Analysis and reporting were next, which produced the development of recommendations for the next phase of work – feasible strategies to increase childcare capacity. When Exigy interviewed stakeholders, it was found that their employee's challenges around childcare included affordability, availability, location, and operating hours. Mr. Swanson also informed the board that according to Washington STEM, the average cost of childcare in SW WA is \$9,288. From Exigy's findings, the recommended next steps for phase II includes, working with previously - interviewed stakeholders who expressed a willingness to work with external parties to address this issue, develop a feasible programmatic strategy to increase childcare capacity meeting workforce needs. Questions were invited and addressed by Mr. Swanson, Mr. Jones, Ms. Halliday, and Mr. Perkey.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENT

Public comments were invited but none were forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

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With nothing further for the good of the order, Chair Spratt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Mike Bridges moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m., second by Ralph Clark. Motion carried.