



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

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

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

Board Members with Excused Absences: Mike Backman, Monte Constable, Diane McWithey.

Board Members with Unexcused Absences: Bob Jungers.

Guests Present: Cadie Dye, Joseph Hennessey, Thavy Mom-Hing, Rhianna Johnson, Jesse Oliver, Tiffany Plous, Victoria Pruet, Lisa Schauer, and Matt Sneed.

Staff Members Present: Kevin Perkey, Kathy Ashley, Linda Czech, Narek Danielyan, Denise Elliott, Amy Gimlin, Darcy Hoffman, Barri Horner, Alyssa Joyner, Kari Kollander, Julia Maglione, Miriam Martin, Sean Moore, Nicole Hopkins, Isabella Becerra, and Traci Williams.

Welcome, Introduction of Members, Guests, and Staff

Chair Paige Spratt opened the meeting at 4:08 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 June 10, 2020, Contract Memo, and Policy Memo; which included WSW Business Services Policy #4002 Rev1 and WSW Supportive Service Policy for Nonfederal Funding #3035. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the Consent Agenda was approved with all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT

Treasurer Renny Christopher presented the PY19 Financial results and updates for the PY20 budget. Ms. Christopher highlighted the internal expenses, special projects, and that WSW met the 80% minimum obligation percentage for our WIOA formula funds grant allotted to WSW in PY19. WIOA Youth subcontracts with ending dates of June 30, 2020 are underspent as expected due to the challenges of serving participants during the COVID 19 shutdown. WIOA Youth funding not expended will be available for the PY20 Fiscal Year. Both WIOA Adult and WIOA Dislocated Worker service delivery contracts are behind in spending and direct participant training costs are also expected to be underspent for the contract period ending 9/30/20. Funding for those contracts does not expire and will be available for the PY20 Fiscal Year.

As agreed to at budget approval, WIOA funds to be committed to subcontracting for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 (PY20) is below the usual percentage of total funds available benchmark. The finance committee spent time reviewing the available funds amounts. It is expected that WSW will be required to obligate at least 80% of the PY20 funding allocations unless the 80% obligation is waived again.

Treasurer Renny Christopher also informed the board that WSW has secured an additional \$2.68 million in grant funds which will be reflected in the January 2021 budget revision. In addition to the \$2.68 million already secured, applications have been submitted for \$2.7 million more. Questions were invited and addressed by Ms. Christopher and Mr. Perkey.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Perkey updated the board the Governor had asked for a 360 evaluation on the structure and impact of the State Workforce Board with recommendations going to the Governor on the findings this fall. Workforce Southwest Washington has been seen as a model workforce development board for the initiatives that WSW has been doing. The twelve state workforce boards hope to hold a convening this fall, targeting our executive leadership on the board and local elected officials for a policy level discussion on how workforce development can shape our economic recovery.

Also highlighted was that WSW received \$700,000 to develop a new talent pipeline in SW WA for individuals who are recovering from Opioid addiction/currently in rehabilitation. These individuals will be paired with a procured Peer Support Coordinator as a mentor, as well as an individual at WorkSource (via contract with Equus Workforce Solutions) to develop employment and training opportunities. WSW is also waiting on a large ask that was submitted by the Economic Development Agency (EDA) CARES application in partnership with Greater Portland Inc (GPI), and the CWWC for 7 M to 1. Promote and grow regional developed talent pool, 2. Promote and grow employer shared CRM, 3. Develop industry led and regional curriculum of the future of work. Negotiation and discussions will begin early September to move this investment forward.

Mr. Perkey also shared that he was appointed to service on Commissioner Levine's Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee, consisting of seven members made up of three labor, three business and himself as chair of the Washington Workforce Association. The goal of this advisory committee is to present recommendations to the Governor ahead of the legislative session to affect any changes that may or may not be necessary through the unemployment system. Questions were entertained and addressed by Mr. Perkey.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Perkey introduced Lisa Schauer and Cadie Dye from Point North Consulting that will be facilitating with the full board and staff to update WSW's Strategic Plan. This year's board retreat will be held virtually instead of in person. Ms. Schauer shared with the board the schedule, process, and way they will move forward with the updating to the strategic plan. The need to focus on what it is that WSW wants to continue to do, what WSW wants to start, and what WSW needs to stop. A survey will be sent out in October to the full board and staff, getting insight into the value and strategic direction of both board and staff. Questions were entertained and addressed by Ms. Schauer, Ms. Dye, and Mr. Perkey.

Ms. Dye asked the full board the following question, Workforce SW WA invests in driving the growth and development of Southwest WA. As a Board Director, you are an investor. What are your top two investment priorities in the next 12 - 18 months? Answers from some WSW board members below.

- Better serving underserved groups to promote equity; 2. Promoting economic recovery from coronavirus.

WSW Board of Directors Meeting

September 9, 2020

Page | 2

- Getting people on the path to good careers at a younger age. Our average age of students is 30 at LCC and it would be nice to get them on the path to good wages and benefits right out of high school.
- Top two priorities for the next 18 months: more broadly inclusive workforce growth and upskilling for where we want to go (industry growth-wise) not solely reopening skills.
- Upskilling those affected by COVID in the hospitality industry to get them into more stable higher paying positions.
- Top priorities for me is childcare issue, the other is creating viable career path/apprenticeship program. The apprenticeship program should go beyond traditional roles, but to include IT support roles.
- Seek out ways to better set up opportunity for smaller employers to better locate qualified local talent and offer new visions to gainful employment. And 2. get local possible employees talent the right information about what is available locally.
- Upskilling underrepresented groups (historically under employed) to increase employability. 2.) Childcare and remote learning supports for working parents.
- How do we support working parents with childcare needs, especially with online learning.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENT

Matt Sneed; Equus introduced Jesse Oliver as the new Project Director inside of WorkSource, with Mr. Oliver introducing himself to the board and staff. Mr. Perkey introduced WSW's Future Leader's Program intern Isabella Becerra, who is a student at WSUV. Jen Baker; CREDC updated the full board that CREDC is continuing gaining intelligence on a couple industry clusters in Clark County that she is looking forward to collaborating with Darcy Hoffman and the business team at WSW. Barri Horner wished Kevin Perkey a Happy Birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for the good of the order, Chair Spratt adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.