



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

**WSW Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021
4:00 p.m.
Zoom Conference Call**

Board Members Present: Darcy Altizer, Chris Bailey, Mike Bridges, Bob Carroll, Renny Christopher, Monte Constable, Karin Edwards, Kelley Foy, Bob Gustainis, Ilona Kerby, Mara Kieval, Diane McWithey, Ted Sprague, Paige Spratt, Shannon Stull, Lee Tischer, and John Vanderkin.

Board Members with Excused Absences: Ben Bagherpour, Adrian Bryce, Ralph Clark, Eddie Martin, and A.D. Simmons

Board Members with Unexcused Absences: Jen Baker

Guests Present: Tim McGann, Lekha Fernandes, Tracy Doriot, Joseph Hennessey, Losipchak, Amanda Fisher, Becky Graff, Russell Brent, Jeff Swanson, and Susan Milke

Staff Members Present: Kevin Perkey, Kathy Ashley, Kollin Bell, Linda Czech, Denise Elliott, Amy Gimlin, Miriam Halliday, Betsy Hanrahan, Darcy Hoffman, Barri Horner, Alyssa Joyner, Kari Kollander, Julia Maglione, Sean Moore, Star Rush, Tamara Toles, Benton Waterous, and Traci Williams.

Welcome, Introduction of Members, Guests, and Staff

Chair Paige Spratt opened the meeting at 4:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Members, guests, and staff introduced themselves in the chat box.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Spratt entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the Council meeting held on June 9, 2021, Contract Memo, and Policy Memo; which included Memorandum of Understanding State Policy #1013-2, Supportive Service Policy #3005-7, Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker Follow Up Services Policy #3034-1, Data Element Validation Policy #3037, Dispute Resolution Policy #4007-2, Governor's Procedures for Determining Training Program Eligibility, Eligibility Handbook, Veterans Priority of Service Policy #3019-2, Training Handbook, WIOA Infrastructure Agreement State Policy #1024, Data Integrity and Performance Policy and Handbook 1020-1, WIOA Title I-B Administrative Sanctions State Policy #5406-1, and WIOA Title I-B Performance Sanctions State Policy #5415.

Diane McWithey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, second by Ilona Kerby. Motion carried.

WSW CEO SEARCH UPDATE

Chair Spratt and Search Committee Chair Darcy Altizer updated the full board time timeline for the new CEO search. The timeline has been outlined with final interviews to take place mid-November.

WSW Board of Directors Meeting

September 8, 2021

Page | 1

Job profile has been developed and published with the feedback from the board, staff, and stakeholders. Published and promoted on various platforms such as LinkedIn, Partners in Diversity, Macs List and HBCU. The Search Committee and GoodCitizen have their next mid-point meeting on September 16th. The search committee will send out updates on progress to the full board.

Questions and comments were addressed by Chair Spratt and Search Committee Chair Altizer.

WSW GOVERNANCE

Board Member Elections: Mr. Perkey in the absence of Co-Governance Chair Ralph Clark and A.D. Simmons gave introductions of Lekha Fernandes, Employment Security Department; and Tracy Doriot, Doriot Construction LLC, sharing with the full board unique qualities that the Governance Board thought each perspective board member would bring to the WSW board. Tracy Doriot and Lekha Fernandes both gave thanks to the full board for the chance to serve on the board. A motion was entertained to approve both for Council terms beginning on September 8, 2021 through September 30, 2024.

John Vanderkin moved to accept the nominations of Lekha Fernandes and Tracy Doriot to serve on the WSW Board of Directors as presented, second by Mike Bridges. Motion carried.

WSW FINANCE

Treasurer Renny Christopher presented the Treasurers Memo to the full board, mentioning that the Finance Committee of the WSW Board of Directors met on August 18, 2021 where 4th quarter spending and obligations reports for the fiscal year ending 6/30/21 (PY20) were reviewed and discussed.

- **WIOA Obligations:** DOL and Employment Security have waived the requirement to have 80% of the FY21/PY20 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth grants obligated by 6/30/21. WSW has obligated 71%, 79%, and 62%, respectively, of those grants
- **Operations and Special Projects:** Spending for operations ended the year at 94.7% of the forecast budget total for PY20 ending 6/30/21 and special projects spending is at 50%.
- **Grant Budget vs Actual Spending:** Competitive and other state and federal cost reimbursement One pay for performance grant has expired with funds remaining.
- **Contract Spending and Performance:** Spending and performance for all ongoing contracts is being closely monitored and ongoing communication with subcontract recipients is underway to help facilitate the delivery of services.

Questions and comments were addressed by Treasurer Renny Christopher and WSW's COO Barri Horner.

WHERE ARE WE NOW? SWWA ECONOMIC RECOVERY PANEL CONVERSATION

CEO Kevin Perkey shared with the board that this conversation will focus on the current status of our workforce in Southwest WA highlighting the student, business, and job seeker perspective.

- **State of the Economy** – Mr. Perkey shared with the board slides that Scott Bailey, ESD's economist provided to look at Southwest WA Economic Overview. The slides touched on unemployment benefits paid to SWWA residents over the last year, claimants were disproportionately female of people of color, and many industries have recovered as some of the key points.
- **Student Perspective** – Mandipa Masike, WSW's Future Leaders Intern recorded a video sharing the Southwest WA student perspective of what a quality job looks like to them and what they would want or expect from a business when they graduate and join the workforce.

- Job Seeker Perspective – WSW’s Director of Programs, Miriam Halliday introduced guest Tim McGann who touched on the PY20 enrollment monthly numbers at the WorkSource centers, the age range, education attainment, race, and gender of participants. What he has seen is a continued need for affordable and convenient childcare, an ability to say “no” to low paying jobs, and an increased desire for hybrid jobs. Miriam Halliday also introduced guest Jeff Swanson who talked with the full board about the childcare investments that WSW has been doing and the progress and struggles that they have encountered.
- Business Perspective – WSW’s Director of Business Services, Darcy Hoffman shared with the board the average hourly wage and the number of available online job postings currently available in SW Washington. WSW released an application for OJT’s and internships and received 19 applications with only 4 of the applications being from non-registered woman and minority owned businesses. Some of the ways that they business team has seen to boost employment is raising wages + hiring and retention bonuses, skills-based job descriptions and inclusive language, marketing positions to specific communities, and flexible and accommodating to meet employee needs. Also shared was the Community at Heart Hospitality’s 4-day Prep Cook Bootcamp that focuses on teaching basic culinary competencies for candidates new to the hospitality industry. The bootcamp prioritizes opportunity youth ages 18-24 and includes best match placement, ongoing mentoring, support services, standard kitchen attire and tools.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENT

Tracy Doriot thanked the board and the WSW staff for the work being made.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for the good of the order, Chair Spratt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Karin Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m.