

# EASTERN WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND REGIONAL BOARD MEETING SPOKANE, WA May 24, 2018

#### **Attendance:**

*WDC:* Bill Clemens, Jerry Anhorn, Jim Drake, Larry Frick, Jami Gecas, Scott Habenicht, Jeff Koffel, Jim Kowalkowski, Teresa Kutsch, Jennie Weber, Tessa Wicks, Rob Willford

*Regional Board:* Scott Hutsell, Nathan Davis, Steve Kiss, Art Swannack, Mike Talbott,

*Contractors and Guests:* Dana Bowers, Kelly Charlton, Jaclyn Jacot, Doug Loney

*Staff:* Rod Van Alyne, Dayna Brown

Bill Clemens brought the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and introductions followed.

Bill Clemens stated that there is a change to the agenda, there will be not Labor Market Report for this meeting. Bill called for a motion to approve the Agenda.

*Scott Habenicht made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Jeff Koffel seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

Bill called for a motion to approve the February 22, 2018 meeting minutes.

*Scott Hutsell made a motion to approve the February 22, 2018 meeting minutes. Mike Talbott seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

#### **Regional Board Chairman's Report**

Scott Hutsell reported that in June WDC membership terms will end for Bill Clemens, Jerry Anhorn, Jim Drake, Jeff Koffel, Teresa Kutsch, David Ledgerwood, Ken Maestas, Jennie Weber, and Kim Witt. Kim Witt has already notified Rod that he is retiring this summer and will not be continuing on the council. He has indicated that once his replacement has been identified he will let Rod know to determine if his replacement is interested. Scott stated that Rod will be contacting the remaining members to determine if they wish to continue.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Bill Clemens reported that the youth committee is in need of a representative from the council that represents the business community that serves youth. The commitment is usually two conference calls per year and a face-to-face meeting every other year.

Bill said that if anyone on the council is interested in the Youth committee or any of the other committees, Administrative, Business Services, and Quality Assurance, to let Rod know. The Admin and Business committees meet one or two times a year and the Quality Assurance committee meets quarterly, all of the meetings are by conference call.

### **Quality Assurance Committee Report**

Teresa Kutsch reported that the Quality Assurance Committee met on May 17, 2018 to review current service provider performance through April 30, 2018 and to discuss the Barrier and Access Committee (BASC).

Teresa stated that both the Adult and Youth programs are over the targeted enrollment and Dislocated Worker has caught up quite a bit. The Dislocated Worker program is on target for entered employment, Adult is a bit behind but both Adult providers are aware and are looking at exit options to meet the target. Rural Resources Youth program is a little behind in expenditures and Blue Mountain Action Council is doing fine. Teresa added that it's a good thing that funding is available right now because PY 18 funding hasn't been received yet.

Blue Mountain Action Council is on target for youth placement and Rural Resources is within a couple of positive outcomes of being on target. Teresa added that the youth certificate graph is a bit deceiving, but both providers are within a couple of points of being on target. Typically the certificate rate goes up this time of year with graduations.

The state workforce board is in the process of working on performance targets. A challenge is that DOL wants to only use WIOA data, not WIA, which only includes two quarters of data from participants exited July 2016 through June 2017. The challenge is for some areas, including the EWP WDC, there isn't a lot of data so there is a concern that there could be errors in the numbers. Teresa stated there is a waiver for this year so the data wouldn't be held against the areas. Art Swannack asked if the waiver from DOL is in writing; Rod said that he has not seen one, but he has heard it on multiple statewide calls.

Teresa reported that the Quality Assurance committee is looking for people to be appointed to the BASC subcommittee that would be able to join the discussions every quarter with valuable information, one person could represent two or three barriers so the subcommittee doesn't get too big.

### **Administrative Committee Report**

The service providers, Kelly Charlton, Jennie Weber, and Doug Loney excused themselves from the meeting at 12:48.

Bill Clemens reported that the Administrative committee met on May 21, 2018 to review the Dislocated Worker and Adult service provider proposals.

The Dislocated Worker program was done in two separate proposals from Employment Security Department, one for the four northern counties (Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, and Stevens), and one for the five southern counties (Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman). The proposals are very similar and any variances are because of service delivery models with the service areas. The differences in the cost per exit are typically due to the difference in rent in the offices and the number and tenure of different staff in each area.

The Adult program was done in two proposals, one from Rural Resources covering Asotin, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Whitman counties, and one from Blue Mountain Action Council covering Columbia and Walla Walla counties. Bill stated that the funding for Rural Resources is higher due to the larger

area. The responses for both areas are consistent with past years, with the exception of the new questions that were developed in response to the ESD monitoring questions; Bill stated that the responses from the providers would meet the requirements from the monitors. The differences on the summary sheet relate to how services are delivered. Service providers in Walla Walla and Asotin counties have opportunities offered locally through Walla Walla Community College. Local classroom training opportunities in the northern area are limited or require additional travel. Rural Resources also has multiple offices which increases expenses. Bill explained that the difference in the percentage of exiters with credentials is due to Rural Resources using OJT more often than classroom training. When DOL publishes targets for PY 18 and PY 19 Rod will revisit with the service providers to make sure that they are on track.

*Scott Hutsell made a motion to extend Adult and Dislocated Worker program contracts for Rural Resources, Blue Mountain Action Council, and Employment Security Department. Mike Talbott seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

## **Youth Committee Report**

Rod reported that the Youth committee met on May 17<sup>th</sup> to review youth service provider proposals for PY 18. Eric Hoyle and Rod went through the proposals and through several questions. Both Kathy Covey and Kelly Charlton were on the call to answer the questions. Rod explained the cost per outcome is higher than in past years because in WIOA providers are required to spend much more time with the participant and wages have gone up due to the raise in minimum wage. Eric was supportive of extending the service providers contracts. Rod explained that Eric Hoyle was the only member on the call, but Rod has had email conversations with both Jim Kowalkowski and LuAnne Denison to go over the proposals and they are also in favor of extending the contracts.

*Jeff Koffell made a motion to extend Youth program contracts for Rural Resources and Blue Mountain Action Council. Steve Kiss seconded the motion.*

*Jeff Koffel amended the motion to make it a motion to approve the director's recommendation. Art Swannack seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

The service providers returned to the meeting at 12:58.

## **Director's Report**

Rod reported that the Governor has named Suzi LeVine as the new Employment Security Department Commissioner.

Rod stated that there is a breakfast meeting in Spokane with Gary Chandler from the State Workforce Board on June 12<sup>th</sup>; this is a good opportunity to learn how to help support efforts in representing business on the board.

May 9<sup>th</sup> a "Pathways to Prosperity" conference was held with 485 attendees at 21 sites across the state, including five sites in the EWP WDA, Colfax, Colville, Davenport, Republic and Walla Walla. The local discussions in the sites were good. Local businesses talked about the challenges they face, including how to get quality employees, drug testing and employees not wanting to work a full day. Nathan Davis stated he spent two hours with the Governor talking about issues in Ferry County including how fires and floods are draining the economy.

Rod reported that allocation numbers were announced this week and the state will apply the formula based on unemployment numbers in each of the counties. Performance negotiations are in the works now and the challenge is there isn't enough usable data; the EWP WDA is so small that one or two placements can make a significant change.

The Employment Security Monitoring team was in Walla Walla in March to review Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker files from Blue Mountain Action Council, Rural Resources and the Employment Security Department. No eligibility issues were found and there were no questioned costs. There were minor fixes to the files that have all been corrected. There was a recommendation to add language to our Incumbent Worker Policy to meet WIOA criteria, which has now been added.

## **WorkSource Report**

Jennie Weber stated that the state is still struggling with technology and having valuable reports. Teresa Kutsch reported that DVR has a Pre-Employment Transition Services program that serves students with disabilities. DVR region one has nine contracts, EWP being one of them, subcontracting with Rural Resources and Blue Mountain Action Council. Blue Mountain Action Council has received a contract amendment to offer a third round of services that will serve an additional 10 students.

Jerry Anhorn reported that the welding technology program in Clarkston has a day and a night program and has exceeded capacity in the first year. In the past many students would get certificates and go to work for manufacturers without finishing the program, but of the thirteen students that started ten are still enrolled to complete the program. Scott Hutsell asked how geographically large is the area they are pulling from for students; Jerry said it's mostly local, but a few come from the Idaho border. Rod said that SWEDA and CEDA have a manufacturing group that has youth meet with employers about manufacturing jobs; this is showing the youth that there are livable wage jobs in their area with a two year degree. Scott Hutsell asked how many kids go onto a four year college; Jerry said not even 25%. Art Swannack asked if 40% of those that go to a four year college actually graduate; Jerry said that 66% do not come back after the first year. Jerry stated that the legislature isn't supporting community colleges and they have 60% of the funding they have had in the past which is causing programs to be cut.

Jennie reported that Employment Security Department has added a Customer First Manager that will be accountable for ESD operation at the Colville office starting June 1.

## **Career Connected Learning Presentation**

Dana Bowers from Stevens County Conservation District made a presentation on the Eastern Washington Forestry Internship program that is working in conjunction with Rural Resources for the Career Connected Learning program. Stevens County Conservation district is a non-regulatory agency which is a subdivision of the federal government similar to school districts. Their goal is to work along with land owners to increase the sustainability in their land.

The program is for 75% out-of-school youth, ages 16-24 and 25% in-school youth, ages 14-21. The students participate in a short term work experience for three 8 hour days per week for four weeks. The hope is that they will have 60 youth engaged in this program by September of 2019, and then hopefully reengage in the college program offered through SCC or Job Corps.

Dana's PowerPoint presentation can be accessed at: <http://ewpartnership.org/reports>

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Jaclyn Jacot reported that the Republic center will be open part time this summer, mostly for GED. Lincoln County has GED and High School completion classes that started six weeks ago with four students involved. In Stevens County there will be a welding and manufacturing cohort in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28