

RETREAT MINUTES

June 29, 2023 • 12:00 – 4:00 • Clover Park Technical College

Attendees: April Gibson, Norton Sweet, Nathe Lawver, Dale King, Jenna Pollock, Deb Tuggle, Lynn Strickland, Dave Shaw, Mandy Kipfer, Jolita Perez, Dona Ponepinto, Deanna Keller, Victoria Woodards, Blaine Wolfe, Robin Baker, Bruce Dammeier

Staff: Katie Condit, Jan Adams, Josh Stovall, Steve Grimstad, Karen Downing, Deborah Howell, Kari Haugen, Tamar Jackson, Sam Bradshaw, Joanna Rasmussen, Kelly Blucher, Danielle Thompson

Guests: Jonathan Jackson, Penni Belcher

Lunch & Introductions

April called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

State of the Workforce - Josh Stovall

Josh provided a high-level view of the state of the workforce in Pierce County in several areas including the wage gap between women and men and how pronounced it is when adding an ethnicity element.

Pierce County Workforce Vision

- **County Upskill-Reskill Report**

Executive Dammeier shared information and statistics on Pierce County highlighting some of our community's critical needs, such as housing. Discussion continued around issues in Pierce County.

Good Jobs, Great Cities – Mayor Woodards, Blaine Wolfe, Nathe Lawver

- **Earn and Learn**

Victoria, Nathe and Blaine gave an overview and remarks on the program. Victoria noted the program is a multi sector approach to next generation infrastructure, to implement evidence-based workforce strategies and to build care infrastructure that supports the job.

Pierce County Common Referral System – Penni Belcher, United Way

Katie provided a background on how the common referral system was developed, noting we have over 22 organizations participating. Penni discussed the Common Referral System and how individuals are referred to partner organizations. Penny also explained that 211 navigators ensure customers receive the services they were referred to, and if not, the navigators reconnect with them to ensure they access the services they need.

Recruitment & Retention Roundtable – Board

Board members introduced themselves and spoke about their organizations' efforts and challenges in recruitment and retention.

WDB Governance: 20 mins

- **April 2023 minutes (vote)**

Motion to approve made by Dale; second by Nathe. Approved

- **Program Year 2023 Budget (vote)**

Katie briefly discussed the proposed budget. She noted we are about \$1 MM less this year than last year due to lower carry-in funds. Katie noted that we have several grants that will more than make up the deficit. She noted that our federal funding has decreased, however competitive grants will fill the gap. Katie reminded everyone of the three focus areas in the strategic plan including job seekers, business solutions, and regional alignment.

Motion to approve made by Dave; second by Nathe. Approved.

Katie discussed the \$1.9 MM we will receive from Pierce County over the next couple of years to build up and focus on the behavior health work. Jolita asked when this was approved by the board. Katie explained that recognizing behavioral health is really critical work, and we had several local providers gather to develop a comprehensive plan to

design, partner, and test the unique strategies for investments. In two years, we will return to this board to show what we learned.

- **Extend site certifications – Dave and Dona**

Katie provided context for the one-stop certification process of the WorkSource Pierce One-Stop Center, affiliate, and connections sites. Dave noted we have three sites currently and we are looking to add more sites. He noted the site certification process and is now better suited to what we are looking for. Dona followed up noting that Goodwill had to step down due to staffing issues and will reapply once their staffing has ramped up. April thanked Dave and Dona for their efforts serving on the certification committee. Dave in turn praised Shellie Willis for all her hard work on the certifications.

Palmer Pathways Impact – Jonathan Jackson, Palmer Scholars

Jonathon gave an overview of Palmer Pathways and played a video highlighting the Palmer Scholars programs. There was a question and answer period following the presentation.

WorkForce Central Staff Roles – WFC Staff

Katie reminded board members of their request to have more familiarity with board staff. She then asked several WorkForce Central staff members to introduce themselves and describe their roles.

WDB Business

- **Governance Structure & Bylaws and Board terms and roles**

Katie discussed the requirements of the bylaws and shared the list of members with their board terms. She proposed a recommendation of a two-year or one-term limit for the board chair, which she will put to the board at the next meeting. Jolita suggested we make sure we stagger the chair and vice chair election, so they are not elected in the same year. Katie reminded everyone that the Board Chair and Vice Chair must be a private sector member.

- **PY22 WIOA Management Letter**

Katie briefly spoke about the ESD PY22 WIOA Management Letter describing outcomes of this year's ESD monitoring. Katie noted there were no disallowed costs.- However, ESD noted our interlocal agreement is not in compliance and we need to update our interlocal agreement, which is in progress and should be completed soon.

Good of the Order

April thanked Katie and Jan for coordinating today's retreat.

Deanna Keller noted they have put money into their budget to provide support for other organizations for workforce development rather than providing it themselves.

Katie discussed the planning behind today's retreat. She asked for input on what they would like to see at the board's next retreat.

Motion to adjourn made by Nathe; seconded by Mandy. The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.