



GREATER ECONOMIC VITALITY FOR ALL.

Partnering to prepare and grow the Pierce County workforce to align it with employer needs.

Workforce Development Board

MINUTES

December 14, 2023 • 3:00 – 4:30

WorkSource Pierce, Pine Room

Attendees: April Lynne, Blaine Wolff, Bruce Kendall, Dale King, Dave Shaw, Irene Reyes, Jenna Pollock, Jolita Perez, Lynn Strickland, Mandy Kipfer, Nathe Lawver, Robin Baker, Ann Medalia, Norton Sweet, Tanya Imke, Dona Ponepinto

Staff: Katie Condit, Steve Grimshaw, Deborah Howell, Josh Stovall, Karen Downing, Debbie Lean

I. Welcome

April called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. Introductions were made.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Consent Agenda (VOTE)

- a) June 2023 and October 2023 Meeting Minutes
- b) October 2023 Finance Report
- c) Updated Bylaws
- d) Public Records Request Policy

Motion to approve made by Dale; seconded by Bruce; Approved

IV. Theory of Change Review: Deborah Howell & Katie Condit

Katie shared that Deborah would provide a high-level review of our Theory of Change and that WFC is committed to giving the board a status around our work and focus areas so the board can continue to champion and tell our story outside this board meeting space. Deborah went over the Theory of Change document. She explained that one of WorkForce Central's responsibilities is to bridge the gap between job seekers, employers, and community organizations to build a robust workforce and ensure economic vitality across the region. She explained the who, the how, the outcomes, and the regional alignment.

V. Incoming Investments and Impact: Katie Condit & Board

Katie shared that over the last six months, WorkForce Central has brought in nearly \$9M of additional, unanticipated funding to support its strategic plan of getting youth and adults into quality training and jobs. Katie also shared that with approximately \$9M, we anticipate serving 1800 youth and adults and 1500 businesses.

- a) Commerce Community Reinvestment

- i) Business Support

Through a Department of Commerce grant to support reducing the harm that was done when we put a lot of people in prison who are now trying to reenter the workforce, WFC is receiving \$2M for business support to our black, indigenous, and people of color owned businesses, especially small ones, in Pierce County, making sure that they have the workforce

development support that they need. There's already work to support small black indigenous and people of color who own businesses, so we are aligning with that current work in the county.

ii) Workforce Training Incentives

Katie shared that WFC is receiving \$1.2M for people who enter our workforce system to say they want to upskill/reskill and can't afford to leave their current unpaid job while doing this. Commerce designed this so that the customer is paid \$1000/month if they have a plan and show they are working toward reskilling. WorkForce Central is working closely with United Way for alignment.

b) Washington Jobs Initiative: Manufacturing and Construction

The State of Washington applied for federal funding through the Economic Development Administration. Over 40 applications were submitted, and WorkForce Central submitted two applications and was awarded a total of \$3M, \$1.7M for manufacturing, and \$1.2M for construction. The training focus will be manufacturing and construction with a strong partnership with labor and Clover Park and Bates. We will be testing a model with both schools. Lynn shared what AJAC's role is in this work, providing pathways to job placement.

c) Port of Tacoma & Asia Pacific Cultural Center

Port of Tacoma Commission set aside workforce development funds for the first time, something they care about. We have been awarded \$175,000 a year for up to three years for people to get into the skilled trades. Because Asian American Pacific Islanders are significantly underrepresented in the skilled trade, we have partnered with Asia Pacific Cultural Center with a plan to serve upward of 60 young adults.

d) Pierce County Behavioral Health Consortium

WorkForce Central has been awarded \$2M from the County. This funding is slated to test innovative models around interns, supervisors, and pathways. We have a lot of analysis and data going into this, so we can test whether what we fund works and if we keep people in the behavioral health pathways longer than we otherwise would.

VI. Career Pathways Mapping: Josh Stovall & Board

Josh presented the tool he developed for use across the county to assist jobseekers and career navigators in navigating the different career pathways in our priority sectors. He also shared that this is still in beta but will share the link with the board for them to use and share any feedback.

VII. Other Business

a) Conflict of Interest

Katie reminded the board that it is that time of year to revisit any conflict of interest any member may have and remind everyone how important it is to remember that when you are in the seat of a board



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member, you are functioning on behalf of WorkForce Central, not on behalf of your organization. If comfortable, Katie asked members to complete and sign the Conflict of Interest form today. If they need more time to read it, that is also fine. Katie shared that members who are absent or participating virtually will receive this form to sign via email.

b) Board Terms Review

Katie reviewed with the board members the Board Terms document in the agenda packet and asked if there are any questions to let her know.

c) Approve Executive Officer Slate

Katie reminded the board members that at the last meeting, Irene Reyes is on the slate to step up from Vice Chair to Chair, and Dave Shaw has been nominated as Vice Chair. No further nominations were received for this executive slate and ask to approve Irene and Dave as the slate of officers for a two-year term of office. All present approved.

d) Chair Transition

Katie reminded everyone that this was April's last board meeting. She has served incredibly for over a decade, and thanked her for her amazing job, guidance, and support on behalf of the board. April thanked the board members and shared that it is bittersweet but knows she is leaving it in great hands.

VIII. Good of the Order

Katie told the board members that she would like to take a quick temperature on a slate of meeting dates/times for next year. She will be reaching out via email and asking everyone to commit to following up with their meeting time preferences.

Meeting adjourned at: 4:20pm