



Bridging the gap between job seekers, employers, and community organizations

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### **WFC Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

June 25, 2025 • 9:00-10:30am

WorkForce Central • via TEAMS

Ryan Mello, presiding.

Attendees: Ryan Mello, Kiara Daniels, Rosa Ayala, Victoria Woodards, Irene Reyes

Staff: Katie Condit, Steve Grimstad, Debbie Lean, Josh Stovall, Christian Reed, Kari Haugen

- **Welcome and Public Comment**  
Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:04am. There were no public comments.
- **Jobseeker Ismaeel – Katie Condit**  
Katie shared a brief compelling story of a recipient of the Community Reinvestment Funds incentive program. Ryan commented on the beautiful story told by Ismaell and thanked Katie and team for helping illustrate the good work of the WorkForce Central team.
- **Consent Agenda (*Board Vote*)**
  - April 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - April 2025 Financial Report
  - March 2025, April 2025, and May 2025 VouchersMotion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Victoria; seconded by Kiara; Approved
- **Budget Approval (*Board Vote*) – Steve Grimstad**  
Steve presented the budget for Program Year 2025, which covers the period from July 2025 to June 2026. He noted that the budget for 2025-2026 reflects an approximate decrease of \$6.4 million compared to last year. Katie clarified that the contingency budget mentioned by Steve, which is included in the packet, will not be voted on today. This contingency budget outlines what we would propose to bring back to the board in the fall if there are reductions affecting workforce development, following the federal government's budget approval in September.  
Motion to approve the budget as presented by Victoria; seconded by Rosie; Approved
- **Disconnected Youth in Pierce County – Josh Stovall**  
Katie emphasized that one of the core tenets of our work is focusing on disconnected young adults. The federal government has consistently prioritized this demographic in workforce initiatives. Josh presented data on disconnected young adults in Pierce County, discussing the factors contributing to disconnection and highlighting why this issue is important to us. Following his presentation, a discussion ensued.





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- **Pierce County Internships – Christian Reed**  
Christian shared that in April, 650 young adults gathered at a resource and hiring event held at the South Hill Mall. They connected with over 45 local employers eager to hire motivated individuals. The event offered various training opportunities and options for career growth, catering to a wide range of interests. Staff members were present to assist with resume creation and there were opportunities for immediate interviews with employers actively hiring across diverse industries such as construction and healthcare. Board members commended Christian for the great work.
- **Behavioral Health Consortium – Kari Haugen & Katie Condit**  
Kari provided a high-level overview of the strong partnership with the county, specifically regarding the Pierce County Behavioral Health Consortium and its accomplishments. The Consortium has identified strategies to reduce barriers, and our partners have benefited from the county's investment of \$2,000,000. Katie noted that apprenticeships in behavioral health did not exist in Pierce County until this initiative began. While there were a few examples, this partnership allowed us to bring in new opportunities and assess whether we could attract more people to the field. This is an important message, especially considering that years ago, before the county partnership, organizations like Hope Sparks, Comprehensive Life Resources, and a few others approached us to discuss the workforce problem that was not being addressed. Kari expressed enthusiasm about expanding behavioral health apprenticeships and continuing to explore ways to alleviate barriers for interns.
- **Good of the Order**  
Ryan thanked Katie and team. These are really uncertain times with funding especially and we will get through it together and appreciates her steady calm leadership and focus on the people we get to serve.

Meeting adjourned: 10:13 a.m.

