



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

Workforce Development Board Meeting

MINUTES

April 2, 2026 • 3:00 – 4:30

WorkSource Pierce, Pine Room

Attendees: Blaine Wolfe, Nathe Lawver, John Adams, Rachael Pease, Deb Tuggle, Misty Sullivan, Umi Wagner, Dave Shaw, Jolita Perez, Deanna Keller, Dona Ponepinto

Staff: Katie Condit, Shellie Willis, Sam Bradshaw, Tamar Jackson, Joanna Rasmussen, Teresa Delicino, Debbie Lean

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dave called the meeting to order at 3:04pm. Introductions were made.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Consent Agenda (VOTE)

- February 2026 Meeting Minutes
- March 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
- February 2026 Financial Report

Motion to approve the February 2026 Meeting Minutes made by Nathe; seconded by Deb; Approved

Motion to approve March Special Meeting Minutes made by Nathe; seconded by Rachael; Approved

Motion to approve the February 2026 Financial Report made by Nathe; seconded by Dona; Approved

IV. Layoffs and Career Changes – Sam Bradshaw & Board

- Layoff Briefing
- WorkForce Central Role with business and jobseekers
- Board guidance

Sam provided an update on current and emerging layoff activity affecting Pierce County and surrounding regions, outlining WorkForce Central's rapid response and layoff assistance efforts, and gathered on-the-ground insights from board members and employers. Despite national announcements involving tens of thousands of jobs, the direct impact locally has been far more contained than the headlines might suggest. Our strategy has been early intervention. When employers engage us early, we can reduce disruption, assess transferable skills, and, in some cases, help people move directly into new roles before they ever experience unemployment. That approach has worked, and continues to work. What stands out most is layoffs are no longer isolated by age, industry, or skill level. They are broader, more distributed, and more reflective of economic uncertainty than of individual performance. That makes workforce systems like ours more critical than ever. Our focus moving forward is simple and disciplined: intervene early, shorten the time between layoff and reemployment, and keep skilled workers in Pierce County.





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V. WorkSource Brick and Mortar Plan – Shellie Willis & Board

Shellie provided an update on a long-term plan to transition workforce service locations in Pierce County. The proposal would shift from a single comprehensive center to a two-campus model—West Tacoma and East Pierce County. This model will improve access, reduce geographic barriers, and better meet community needs. WorkSource locations operate at different service levels (comprehensive, affiliate, and connection sites), including libraries, colleges, JBLM, and the South Hill Mall. The team is now in the planning and site-exploration phase, prioritizing state-owned properties (especially colleges), with an expected two-year timeline for potential relocation and implementation.

VI. SNAP & Medicaid Worker Requirements – Katie Condit & Board

Katie reported that federal SNAP work requirements have expanded, increasing the number of individuals who must work or volunteer to maintain benefits. The age cap has increased from 54 to 64, and the child-age threshold for parents has decreased from 18 to 14, affecting an estimated 15,000 additional people in Pierce County. Most recipients must now complete 80 hours per month of work or volunteering, with fewer exceptions for activities such as job searching. These changes were implemented without additional support, increasing pressure on local services. In response, Washington State (DSHS) is issuing updated guidance and forming cross-agency and community coalitions to help individuals meet requirements through volunteering and local organizations. In Pierce County, organizations including the Pierce County Resilience Hub are coordinating to manage intake, preserve benefits, and support residents. While demand is rising, partners report they are currently meeting needs and strengthening collaboration to address ongoing economic and immigration challenges.

VII. National Assoc of Workforce Boards and WWA – Katie Condit & Board

Katie invited several board members and staff (Deb, Misty, Rachel, Nathe, and Shellie) to share takeaways from the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) forum held in March, which was hosted in Las Vegas, first time outside of DC. This improved affordability for West Coast attendees. Key themes included pride in the region's unique "secret sauce" of collaboration, strong recognition from other states of the board's innovative work, and encouragement to be more visible and proactive in presenting nationally. Attendees highlighted particularly powerful sessions on prison and probation reform, reentry challenges, and lived experiences, noting these were more impactful than traditional political keynote sessions. There was strong agreement that being together in-person strengthens the board's connection. Katie also shared upcoming professional development opportunities, especially the Washington Workforce Association conference in Spokane this Fall, emphasizing it as a more accessible and valuable option for broad board engagement.

VIII. Good of the Order

Dave shared gratitude for the strong support and collaboration shown during a Downtown Partnership meeting, where members of the Domestic Violence (DV) Committee presented their work. The committee explained its mission to educate employers in Pierce County about recognizing domestic violence, supporting affected employees, and connecting businesses with resources. They proposed hosting an employer-focused webinar, received strong interest and engagement from attendees, and





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began planning a partnership with the Downtown Partnership for the first session. The moment marked the committee's first public presentation and highlighted the board's impact, momentum, and shared passion for creating a purpose-driven community response to domestic violence.

Tamar shared details about the upcoming Collaboration for a Cause event on April 23 at Clover Park Technical College-McGavick Conference Center and invited board members to attend if their schedules allow.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30pm

