



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

Workforce Development Board Meeting MINUTES

August 21, 2025 • 3:00 – 4:30
WorkSource Pierce, Pine Room

Attendees: Jolita Perez, Blaine Wolfe, Misty Sullivan, Umi Wagoner, Nathe Lawver, Lin Zhou, Jenna Pollock, Deb Tuggle, Dave Shaw, Robin Baker, Lynn Strickland, Mandy Kipfer, Irene Reyes, Taleisha Garrett, Nino Gray

Staff: Katie Condit, Shellie Willis, Karen Downing, Teresa Delicino, Harraman Kaur, Debbie Lean, Christian Reed, Steve Grimstad, Tiffany Alviso

I. Welcome

Dave called the meeting to order at 3:06pm. Introductions were made.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda (VOTE)

- a) May 2025 Meeting Minutes
- b) June 2025 Budget Approval Meeting Minutes
- c) June 2025 Financial Report

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Nathe; seconded by Jolita; Approved

Motion to approve the June 2025 Budget Approval Meeting Minutes as presented by Blaine; seconded by Lynn; Approved

Motion to approve the Financial Report as presented by Nathe; seconded by Misty; Approved

IV. Jobseeker Impact – Joanna Rasmussen

Joanna shared a video featuring Ismaell, who is a recipient of the Community Investment Funds Incentive Program. The video tells a compelling story about his experience. She shared there were other videos showcasing the positive impact our funding has had on other recipients in the community. After the presentation, the board members provided positive feedback and suggested inviting other recipients to attend upcoming meetings to share their experiences and entrepreneurial journeys.

V. Federal Budget and Policy Impact – Katie Condit & Board

Katie informed the board that we have received funding guidance in the form of a memo from the U.S. Attorney General, which is included in the board packet. She explained that



this memo differs from an executive order and carries stronger legal implications. She also shared that we have received legal advice indicating that we should not disregard the memo from the Attorney General. With this guidance in mind, we will continue to do our work while being mindful of the guidance received. Katie also shared that we have received state funding guidance that specifies support for people of color and others. We are actively untangling these complexities and working to ensure that we operate ethically.

VI. Young Adult Experiences – Christian Reed & Board

Christian shared details about the annual "Collaboration for a Cause" event, which took place in July. This event is the largest job fair and resource fair in Pierce County. The resources offered included on-site resume preparation and guidance, supportive services for daily living (basic needs), connections to hiring employers, education and training opportunities, and personal health resources. This year's event was focused on youth. A total of 700 people attended, with over 300 registering for the event. Remarkably, 85 young people were hired on the spot. Instead of determining what young adults in our community need based on assumptions, Christian conducted video interviews to ask them directly about their needs and the barriers they face. As a result of our collaboration with the Port, 60 participants secured internships. 60 were hired on the spot. Christian shared that instead of us deciding what the young adults in our community need, he conducted, on video, interviews asking what they are looking for and what barriers exist for them. Shared with our contract with the Port, 60 went directly into internships.

VII. Board Retreat – Katie Condit

Katie shared the board retreat will be held at the Tacoma Arts Museum on October 23rd. The invite should be on everyone's calendars, and she will be reaching out for attendance confirmations.

VIII. Pierce County Executive Vision and Dialogue – Exec. Ryan Mello & Board

Executive Mello expressed his gratitude to the board members for their expertise and acknowledged the incredible staff led by the amazing Katie Condit. He shared his vision for the county, reflecting on how he spent time with the staff developing the strategic plan under the theme of "Moving Forward Together." He highlighted the three pillars of the strategic plan:

- Communities That Are Safe for All – This includes effective and fair law and justice systems, healthy people, a clean and sustainable environment, stable climate conditions, livable communities, support for youth development, and reliable, safe, and accessible infrastructure.
- An Economy That Works for Everyone – Key elements are a skilled workforce, economic security and opportunity, regional leadership, tribal partnerships,



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accountability, good governance, customer-focused services, and a talented and diverse workforce.

- **Effective, Inclusive, and Equitable Government Services** – This focuses on regional leadership, tribal partnerships, accountability, good governance, welcoming and customer-oriented services, and maintaining a talented and diverse workforce.

Executive Mello plans to send the strategic plan to Katie so that she can distribute it to the board. He encouraged everyone to review it, as it contains clear measures, initiatives in various sectors, and specific areas for performance measurement. Once again, he thanked the board for the opportunity to discuss the county's ongoing efforts and vision. He emphasized the need to advance these programs through the County Council and generate the necessary revenue for investments. He will collaborate with Katie and the board chair to identify numerous opportunities for advancing these initiatives. A discussion then followed.

IX. Good of the Order

Adjourned: 4:34pm

