



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

Workforce Development Board Meeting

MINUTES

February 5, 2026 • 3:00 – 4:30

WorkSource Pierce, Pine Room

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Intro new Board Member – John Adams, Laborers Local 252
- Dave called the meeting to order at 3:03
- Introductions were made. John Adams will be introduced at next meeting

II. Public Comment

No public comments

III. Consent Agenda (VOTE)

- December 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - December 2025 Financial Report
- Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Nathe; seconded by Misty; Approved

IV. SWOT & Board Priorities – Katie Condit & Board

- Further refinement

Katie shared that Workforce Central is building a new strategic framework to replace the expiring 3-year plan ending June. After discussion, the board and staff will work on refining the priorities based on current “hot spots,” including:

- Childcare shortages
- AI-related job displacement and industry restructuring
- Layoffs in tech and downstream impact on small businesses
- Training needs for older workers
- Workers with disabilities and accommodation needs
- Basic needs challenges (housing, food, healthcare)
- Interconnected systems gaps (e.g., licensing fees derailing training progress)
- Need for better collaboration among agencies and nonprofits
- Military population and changes to SkillBridge access
- Support for undocumented individuals

- Federal priorities as outlined by DOL

Katie shared that Washington DC has started to get louder about their workforce development work and that the Department of Labor is emphasizing the following priorities which may shape future funding and performance expectations:

- AI readiness
- Apprenticeships
- Flexible, innovative training approaches
- “Digital engineering” as an emerging focus



V. Industry Roundtables – Misty Sullivan, Jolita Perez, Blaine Wolfe, Nathe Lawver

- **Current State & Purpose**

Board discussed that over the past two and a half years, leadership has been meeting regularly with presidents of community and technical colleges to understand how to better support them. One need they highlighted was stronger connections to industry, especially through structured roundtables where industry leaders can discuss real-world trends that should inform workforce training. In response, several industry roundtables have been created including construction, healthcare, and behavioral health, and manufacturing (relaunching). These roundtables have become strong forums for discussion.

- **What's working, what isn't?**

Key feedback:

- More time is needed in meetings.
- Need clear strategies, action plans, and subcommittees for follow-through.
- Stronger employer engagement is needed (e.g., clinical placements, instructor shortages).
- Include frontline worker voices.
- Identify “small wins” and remove minor barriers that obstruct career progress.

VI. Board Business

- **Legislative Day Review – Kelly Brickhouse, Lynn Strickland, Misty Sullivan**

Kelly, Lynn, and Misty provided an update on their legislative day. Board members visited legislators and were able to have productive discussions with many about:

- Economic Security for All (EcSA) funding
- Community Reinvestment Project (CRP)
- Impacts of new SNAP/TANF work requirements
 - ✓ ~50,000 Pierce County residents on SNAP may be required to engage with workforce services
 - ✓ No additional funding provided to support this influx
- Workforce development is bipartisan, but legislators often lack detailed awareness of bill impacts.
- Data + stories were emphasized as effective advocacy tools.
- Significant tax and policy changes are affecting local businesses.

- **Current and projected funding structure –**

Katie discussed a handout on WFC's funding updates and funding streams.

Positive developments:

- WIOA federal funding appears stable.
- County renewed \$2M Behavioral Health Consortium support (direct award).



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- Pierce County received significant cross-county partnership funding (\$300K) from King County.
- Additional EPA-funded HVAC training grant (\$300K).
- Proliance Foundation contribution of \$10,000 for young adult internships.
- CRP may continue at \$100M statewide, with WorkForce Central receiving a portion.

Budget pressures:

- State-level funding reductions (e.g., EcSA) significantly impact operations.
- SNAP requirements will increase service demand dramatically.

- Young Adult Provider (**VOTE**) – Katie Condit & Board

Tabled. A special board meeting will be scheduled in March to vote on the young adult provider decision.

- Formal & Informal Board Engagement Opportunities – Katie Condit & Board

Katie shared that she has heard from numerous board members on ways to be involved. She will follow up in an email to all outlining the various ways to volunteer and to garner interest.

Currently board members can participate in:

- Industry roundtables
- Legislative education
- Domestic violence committee
- Board leadership
- RFP/Grant review committees
- CEO evaluation
- Young adult provider selection committee

VII. Good of the Order

- Nino shared that nonprofit volunteer hours may satisfy SNAP/TANF work requirements.
- Katie shared that this is Nino's last board meeting and thanked him for his involvement on the board as the interim regional director for ESD. The individual stepping into his role will replace him on this board.
- Legislative roundtables with Pierce County representatives planned for the fall.

Meeting adjourned 4:29pm

