

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Adult & Employer Linkage Committee

May 20, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Staff/Partners</u>
Adolfo de Leon	Karl Dye	Lori Mattson	Tiffany Scott, BFWDC
Jamie Rasmussen	Michael Lee		David Chavey-Reynaud, BFWDC
Jennie Weber	Melanie Olson		Diana Hamilton, BFWDC
Todd Samuel			Jamilet Nerell, BFWDC
			Jessie Cardwell, BFWDC
			Becky Smith, BFWDC
			Kayci Loftus, CPS
			Heather Woodruff, CPS
			Jasmine Smith, CPS
			Rebecca Williamson, ESD
			Rosa Reyna, GW
			Israel Delamora, OIC
			Rosenda Henley, PFP
			Crystal Bright, WSO
			Lindsay Noble, Consistent Care

Call to Order

Adolfo welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Becky read through the roll call while everyone responded.

Approval of Committee Minutes

The Minutes of April 15, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Todd Samuel moved to approve April 15, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Program Highlights – Diana

Diana shared that the state has temporarily suspended the requirement that local Workforce Development Councils obligate at least 80% of each WIOA formula grant by the end of PY20 because of the service delivery challenges brought on by COVID. They anticipate having sufficient carry-in dollars to alleviate the first-quarter funding restriction in PY21. This first quarter restriction traditionally limits the availability of training opportunities and support service expenditures for customers. Once the PY21 allocations are received from the state and the numbers are reviewed to determine contract amounts, they will forward to the board to vote on the specific dollar amounts and the first quarter cap.

Diana shared that the state has also extended the PY19 Rapid Response Increase Employment (RRIE) contract period from June 30, 2021, to December 31, 2021. This will allow the subrecipient to offer training opportunities and wrap-around supports without a disruption in services. It will also ensure that the contract is fully expended.

As we continue to move forward in the phased re-opening plan, these changes will provide the resources that customers need to help obtain their career goals. We are happy that the state has offered flexibility to offer these services to customers during COVID.

The Department of Health notified our subrecipient that the mass vaccination site at the fairgrounds would end on May 31. They are waiting to hear if there will be a possibility to continue to assist with the vaccination distribution effort if they decide to move to a mobile vaccination clinic.

EcSA Update - Jamilet

Jamilet shared that we are on track for enrollments. Training placements are well above the monthly target as well. She pointed out that employment exits remain a challenge due to the impacts of Covid-19. They are hoping with the job recovery in the Tri-Cities that the employed exit numbers will increase.

They are a bit behind on expenditures but are still working toward their target. EcSA utilizes PY18/PY19 funds for the current program year which most of the award must be spent by June 30, 2021. She continues to have conversations with the funding source to see if there is any flexibility. Most of the expenditures declined due to COVID and the lack of in-person services and other training. She will share as she receives more guidance from the Employment Security Department (ESD).

They continue to place participants in trainings that are in demand. One of those is Heavy Truck Driving. As soon as participants receive this occupational license, they are more likely to be placed in employment right away.

The subrecipient continues to work with the local agencies to provide co-enrollments and referrals to the EcSA program. They also continue to work on the outreach piece of the program. They continue to work with state-level agencies such as DSHS. EcSA is conducting statewide planning sessions. Thank you to Adolfo for participating and providing a highlight of the efforts that we have tried. Some of the tools created by Career Path Services have been shared with other WDCs. We will continue to share information with other areas that are working on standing up their EcSA models.

Jamilet expressed that the staff continues to follow the re-opening plan. Tiffany shared a memo, WorkSource Columbia Basin and TC Futures will be open for WIOA in-person services on July 1. The leadership at each facility will be following the plans within their facilities.

Families Forward Washington (FFW) Updates – Jamilet

Jamilet shared that they have surpassed the enrollment target goal of 56. The enrollment period ended in December. They are currently working on intensive one-on-one job development services to ensure that any participant who has received services or completed any training tracks is placed in employment. The grant will end on June 30, 2021.

She shared a link (<https://www.mdrc.org/publication/connecting-parents-occupational-training>) to the Families Forward Washington Demonstration report from MDRC. MDRC is one of the funding sources. There are five program models across the nation. She encouraged the committee to review these documents and let her know if they have any questions.

The Department of Child Support (DCS) started planning the Families Forward Washington (FFW) Demonstration in 2016. The local FFW program was launched in September of 2018. Not everyone enrolled in the program made the data pull for the analysis for this study.

This report gives data-driven findings and demonstrates the local efforts. They do an excellent job of comparing and contrasting what did and did not work. For this evaluation, there was no right or wrong. They looked to analyze what program model noncustodial parents can access and whether the strategies implemented helped reduce parents' payments to child support.

Todd asked what she would do differently if she were to do this program again. She learned that any new program needs to focus on the awareness of local agencies and partners. There is specific language that speaks on the challenges we encountered as we worked to gain flexibility within our funding source to conduct local outreach. It is essential to have flexibility within the language of the outreach material to be disseminated. One of the findings included having less “government-related” language and have it more approachable. We want to target the reader. Many people are afraid of engaging with a government agency because they fear they may have to pay more for child support.

Todd asked about the amount of cost per person in the program. What was her reaction to the amount of money spent per person to get an outcome? Jamilet shared that the direct cost was lower than anticipated. We had 73 participants, which cost between \$8,000 and \$9,000. Each person has their own needs, and some required more funds than others.

They were able to stretch every dollar available. In the month of April, they are 97.5% spent. Because Goodwill has a low overhead cost, it allowed more money to be spent on participants.

Liaison Report – David

David walked through the Liaison Report that was provided in the packet. They continue to close the gap in serving customers from this time last year. We gained 3,000 jobs in March and are at 81% in our job recovery from COVID. The jobs are coming from hospitality, healthcare, construction, retail, and private education.

WorkSource Update – Crystal

Crystal was excited to share that the 2021 certification process is complete. They met with the board certification committee and are eagerly awaiting the results. What they learned in this process is driving the center-wide goals for the upcoming year.

The business service team has continued to build relationships. They have found another opportunity to serve businesses. Traditionally, they have had in-person Shared Work workshops. They have been able to shift to a virtual model due to the pandemic. They hope to meet more businesses that need additional resources.

Todd asked about any challenges in getting ready to open on July 1st. Crystal shared that they have a strong plan to work and have been involving all partners. They will be doing a phased opening which will allow serving the customers most in need face to face. It will also help staff reacclimate to working in person and get used to some of the safety and other process protocols in place to ensure the safety of staff and the community. There are additional conversations to have around the percentage of occupancy. They have facility walk-throughs scheduled over the next week with the safety team and leadership to look for any gaps. They will work on communicating with the public. The Brand and Media Group state team are working on consistent messaging. They are on the right track and are working through the final steps.

Other Business:

Todd asked Kayci about the article in the Business Journal about an activity that Career Path Services is doing. Kayci shared that they applied for a national competition. Out of 118 teams worldwide, they were one of ten chosen to help address the workforce needs around the US. They are partnered with one of six workforce development councils that also expressed interest in the XPrize competition. They are trying to disrupt workforce services in rapid reskilling up to 350 job seekers in their industry of choice within 90 days. They partnered with Anew, the longest-standing pre-apprenticeship program in the nation, to transition their boot camp into a virtual construction fundamental training. Whole Story offers a platform job seekers sell more than their occupational and work history skills. It leans into the lived experience that a job seeker can bring to the job. They will be serving in Virginia. They have been connecting with local community partners to get a list of 350 individuals that want to participate in the construction boot camp. They will also be placed with a mentor. They are doing some forward-thinking on how they can get a workforce trained differently. They are excited to see how this model will unfold. They are piloting it right now and will bring the best solutions back to Washington.

Rosenda shared that People for People will be closed on May 31st.

Next Meeting: The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

DocuSigned by:
Adolfo de Leon 6/17/2021
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Meeting Chair, Adolfo de Leon Date

DocuSigned by:
Becky Smith 6/17/2021
B9CCD05F08634F3
Becky Smith, Office Manager Date