

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Adult & Employer Linkage Committee

March 18, 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
Melanie Olson	Michael Lee		David Chavey-Reynaud, BFWDC
Jamie Rasmussen			Diana Hamilton, BFWDC
Todd Samuel			Cynthia Garcia, BFWDC
Jennie Weber			Jamilet Nerell, BFWDC
			Jessie Cardwell, BFWDC
			Becky Smith, BFWDC
			Kayci Loftus, CPS
			Heather Woodruff, CPS
			Jasmine Smith, CPS
			Rebecca Williamson, ESD
			Rosa Reyna, GW
			Gabby Jacobson, PFP
			Israel Delamora, OIC

Call to Order

Adolfo welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Becky read through the roll call while everyone responded.

Approval of Committee Minutes

The Minutes of January 21, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Todd Samuel moved to approve January 21, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Melanie Olson. Motion carried.

Program Highlights – Diana

Diana shared that they have been informed that the Department of Labor (DOL) will be virtually monitoring all 12 Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) Disaster and Employment Recovery Grants beginning October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. They will focus on eligibility documentation, separate tracking of enrollment expenditures, ensuring Disaster Relief Employment Positions stay within the identified scope of work, and how the grant's overall goals were met. We will let the committee know once we have a firm date. DOL does not monitor local areas very often. We are working closely with the sub-recipients to ensure participant files are ready for DOL's visit.

Thank you to Board Members for approving the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Co-Enrollment policy. That policy guides the TAA referral process to co-enroll eligible TAA participants into the Dislocated Worker (DW) Program. TAA staff have been contacting all Sandvik impacted workers to attend mandatory orientations held twice a week to inform them of the services available. These individuals are permanently laid off, so they are also eligible for the Employment Recovery services.

The Disaster Recovery (DR) Performance Summary shows that our subrecipient is meeting total served goals and is exceeding employed exits. The consortium has made good process in developing host sites for these positions. As of this week, they have placed two food support workers at 2nd Harvest, one Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Outreach Specialist at ESD, and six vaccine support workers at the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH has also committed to posting 12 additional Disaster Recovery positions for a total of 18. The subrecipient is currently recruiting for a Meals on Wheels kitchen support position. There has been a lot of work done to help our community utilize these funds.

Diana pointed out that the Performance Summaries show that the DW, Rapid Response (RRIE), and the Disaster Recovery (DR) programs are behind in enrollments. The Adult, DW, and RRIE programs are behind in employed exits. She attended the Quarterly State Performance Meeting with the ESD Initiative Managers that oversee these programs. They are pleased with the performance outcomes within all five programs, especially when you consider the challenges of Covid-19. They are always excited to see the services provided to customers virtually and WorkSource Columbia Basin's ongoing work to improve the integrated service delivery system. Thank you to everyone for the hard work.

EcSA Update - Jamilet

Jamilet shared that the key performance indicators have been updated based on the latest modification to the contract. There are two different sections on the report; enrollments/training placements and exits. We are no longer reporting out on some of the essential EcSA services. Those services are still being offered and tracked by case-needed (financial literacy, self-sufficient calculator, and one-on-one and group mentorship) but are not tracked to show performance in our local area.

This month, the BFWDC will participate in the March Quarterly Workforce Meeting to present our local model to all statewide leaders who now have access to EcSA funds. This means that we will continue EcSA services past the end date, which was March 2022. We will go into a contract extension to continue to provide services.

She congratulated and thanked Career Path Services for providing a success story to the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) Newsletter. Jamilet asked Heather to recap the story that was published. The newsletter was sent to committee members following the meeting.

Israel asked if the new funding will affect our designations. Jamilet answered that there is \$5.5 million for EcSA that will be distributed statewide. There is a minimum of \$200,000 that will go to each area, including ours. These funds will help extend the program, meaning it will allow for a seamless continuation of our current program with additional months to provide EcSA services.

Families Forward Washington (FFW) Updates – Jamilet

Our enrollments ended in December. We have met and exceeded our goal of enrollments. They are working on intensive case management for job placement, retention services, and the training track's completion. The case manager continues to work with those that were enrolled in December and are still in training. For those participants that have exited our program, an exit letter is provided notifying their one-year study and program completion; however, participants are encouraged to reach out to Goodwill should they need additional resources that are non-Families Forward related. The exit letter was developed locally with our subs collaboration and approved by the funding source.

Goodwill staff continues to engage in local employment events such as virtual job fairs, trying to place those customers that have completed training and are ready for employment. They are actively engaged with participants and provide monthly newsletters with local resources. The program ends in June 2021.

Brazen/LinkedIn Learning Opportunities - David

David reported that the Spring 2021 Virtual Job Fair took place on March 9 and was very successful. There were 47 employer booths with 176 attendees, 432 chats, 32 interviews scheduled, and 67 receiving further screening. CBC has expressed interest in making this a regular job fair. There have been conversations about using the Brazen platform in the future, even after the pandemic ends. There is another job fair scheduled for April.

He shared that 77 of the available 300 licenses for LinkedIn Learning have are being used. The objective is to use all 300 licenses during our pilot period that ends in June. We are excited to see how we can use this program moving forward.

Liaison Report – David

David presented the February Liaison report that was included in the meeting packet. He is working to provide more economic information on the monthly report. He walked through the information provided. We have hit the one-year

mark since the COVID shutdown. We will now be able to compare the pandemic levels against this time last year. This will give us a good picture of the work done during the pandemic.

We continue to look for options and ways to engage the would-be walk-in customers. We are 96% prepped for our return to work plan. We do not have an opening date yet. We want to make sure that the time is right to avoid the need to close down again once the center has opened.

WorkSource Update – Kayci/Rebecca

Kayci shared that they continue to hone in on effective outreach to ensure the reaching of every pocket of the community. She shared that flyers and USBs were distributed to over 300 families in Kennewick and Pasco school districts to those that participated in the Sembrando Amore y Esperanza (Sowing Love and Hope). They are also using the Unemployment Insurance Lists to reach the unemployed in our area directly.

Rebecca reported that there was a Virtual Healthcare Career Fair on February 24. There were 160 individuals registered, and 109 attended. Over 25 local employers attended in addition to training providers. This event resulted in 69 employment referrals for 68 job seekers.

Other Business:

Tiffany shared that there is a strong focus on Community Development Block Grants. There is currently a funding opportunity with Housing and Urban Development currently housed with the Department of Commerce. This pandemic has brought the BFWDC stronger connections to state entities. We are being intentional in exploring funding streams that can help our community meet the current needs. The application is due in early April.

Tiffany stated that some policy and guidance expirations are coming up as far as the flexibility allowed to our local workforce system during the pandemic. She is working with the State Workforce Board and the State Policy Team to ensure that the flexibility continues. There is advocacy happening to make sure that our local systems can continue to serve during Covid-19.

Next Meeting: The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

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Melanie Olson 4/20/2021

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DocuSigned by:
Becky Smith 4/20/2021

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Meeting Chair, Melanie Olson Date

Becky Smith, Office Manager Date