



**Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)**

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

July 21, 2022, at 8:30 am.

Zoom

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>BFWDC Staff Present</u>
Chair, Todd Samuel	Michael Lee	Jennie Weber	Cyndelle Wood
C. Vice Chair, Adolfo de Leon		Karl Dye	David Chavey-Reynaud
Jamie Rasmussen			Isaac Estrada
			Jessie Cardwell
			Tiffany Alviso
			 <u>Presenters</u>
			Crystal Bright

**Call to Order**

Adolfo de Leon started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Cyndelle Wood read through the roll call while everyone responded. She asked guests to put their names and organization in the chat and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

**Approval of Committee Minutes**

The minutes from the 6/16/22, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

*Adolfo moved to approve June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Todd Samuel. Motion carried.*

**WIOA Title IB PY22 Adult and Youth Sole Source Procurement - David Chavey-Reynaud**

During the PY21 ESD (employment security department) monitoring, it was discovered that the initial RFPs (request for proposal) issued for both adult and youth contracts in PY18 were one-year contracts extendable for up to an additional three years. Contract extensions to career path services for adults and youth have been approved. However, we are now reframing that as a sole procurement source for both contracts over the next year to remain consistent with the language of the RFP (request for proposal) initially used. BFWDC recommends a motion to award adult and youth contracts to career path services via sole source procurement.

*Todd moved to approve Sole Source Procurement for PY22 Adult Contract, utilizing Career Path Services as the sub-recipient; Adolfo seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.*

**PY21 Adult, Dislocated Worker, Disaster & Employment Recovery Highlights – Jessie Cardwell**

July starts the new program year; the formula contracts for adult and dislocated workers' last day for PY21 was June 30, 2022. Jessie highlighted the performance and summarized those programs for the PY21 Program year. The Adult program received state recognition for its enrollment efforts throughout the year. Final enrollment numbers show that subrecipient staff enrolled seventeen (17) more participants than their goal, reaching 109% of the target. The state monitors were very pleased with the oversight of the Dislocated Worker program. Zero of the ten files that were monitored had any issues identified. There was a significant amount of turnover in staff supporting this work, and they praised the oversight of the program through technical assistance and Continuous Quality Improvements as reasons for having such good monitoring outcomes. The Disaster Recovery program is

complete, and all performance outcomes have been exceeded, except the number of participants receiving support services (behind by 3). The Disaster Recovery program received state recognition for meeting or exceeding enrollment and employed exit targets. State monitors were very pleased with the Disaster Recovery temporary job placements and the documentation of those efforts. This was an area the rest of the state struggled with, but no issues were identified in Benton-Franklin. The Employment Recovery program is now complete. Most targets were reached. Participants receiving support services were missed by eight. However, staff provided 103 supportive services to 32 participants. Employed exits finished behind by three and reached 93% of the target. The Employment Recovery received state recognition for meeting or exceeding enrollment and employed exit targets.

Chair, Todd Samuel, raised concern regarding cost per participant in PY21 vs. previous years. Historically, the cost per participant in similar programs has been \$3k-\$5k/ participant. Our numbers reflect a \$7k-\$9k range. Are we comparing ourselves to other WDCs (Workforce Development Council) in the state of Washington in this particular employment recovery of dislocated workers or the Dislocated Worker Program in general?

Jessie Cardwell discussed the breakdown of funds and disbursement in the programs, program limits, and funds tracking. The Disaster and Employment Recovery Funds were designed to have a higher cost per participant. Also, the cost per participant is the holistic amount it takes to serve a customer, not just direct participant costs.

Israel Delamora, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington, iterated that OIC, specifically with their grant, has also noticed an increase in participant costs. Inflation has increased the cost of living and many other aspects, including training. For example, CDL drivers, contracts have gone from an average of about \$4400 to about \$5200 per contract.

Tiffany Alviso, the CEO of BFWDC, stated FTE (Full-time Equivalent) for DWG (dislocated worker grant) across the state is between \$10-\$16K. We are well below the average of our peers. Yes, BFWDC staff watch this; however, as expressed by several, we live in inflated times. We must invest now for positive, lifelong outcomes for our workers.

#### **Economic Security for All (EcSA) - David Chavey-Reynaud**

Cumulative data and program performance summary were discussed. Exits remain a challenge for the EcSA program. Some customers have obtained employment and stopped responding to the Case Manager to verify employment details. Others have so many barriers that finding employment without ample time and participation in services is difficult. Some customers have entered employment that is satisfactory to themselves but doesn't meet the wage threshold for the EcSA contract. One major success for June 2022 has been onboarding new EcSA staff. Not only will this help the current EcSA team help reach programmatic goals, but this individual will be seated at both WorkSource Columbia Basin and TC Futures with the hopes of bridging the gaps in services between both entities. The challenges with partnerships and training allocations were at an all-time high for June 2022 as funding has become almost completely depleted. Currently, EcSA staff are holding off on customer training until July 2022 as new funding should be rolling out as part of the new State EcSA grant. Essential and individualized services continue to be provided while monetary benefits are being put on hold unless it's an absolute emergency.

#### **QUEST DWG – Jessie Cardwell**

BFWDC has joined ten other WDAs across the state to participate in a state application for QUEST (quality jobs, equity, strategy, and training) DWG funding. This will be another grant that has a higher cost per participant. Our state is merging information from all the participating WDAs into one application due August 4. Our state is asking for \$15 million out of the \$140 million available. These funds will enhance the Workforce Systems' ongoing efforts to assist unemployed and underemployed workers through worker and business engagement, elevating equity and connecting job seekers to high-quality jobs. The QUEST DWG aims to enable individuals adversely affected by COVID-19 and the social and economic inequities that the pandemic made worse to enter, return to or advance into high-quality jobs in growth industries. This work will be done through partnership development, community

outreach, business engagement, supportive services, and comprehensive career and training services. All these are all things our area does very well. All dislocated worker grants will be awarded by September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2022. It's a two-year grant period from September 30<sup>th</sup> of, 2022, to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Committee members and partners will be notified of the decision on the grant application.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** - David Chavey-Reynaud

David shared data from the PY21 CDBG Program Performance Summary and covered participant placements, and community members impacted. We are working to certify a third site to meet our program target of 12 participants. The state has responded to us and emphasized that we aren't required to meet our program participant target, although we are trying.

**Outreach to Historically Disadvantaged Communities (OHDC) Together We Rise** – Isaac Estrada

Presently working through Phase One; Phase Two begins in September. Isaac discussed they are conducting community research efforts with a local vendor. We intend to gather information about local resources and the optimal communication messaging channels and create a plan to focus groups and surveys further. Isaac reminded the committee and partners who have been sent the outreach request form that if they have any questions about filling it out, what's the purpose of it, or how that process is going to work, please feel free to reach out, and he would be more than happy to help.

**Tri-Cities Futures Update** - David Chavey-Reynaud (Cynthia absent)

David discussed the TC Futures report attached in the Committee meeting packet. The committee updated center traffic, partnerships, events, and TC Futures site growth.

**Liaison Report** - David Chavey-Reynaud

David shared details of the Liaison Report:

**WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB)** – Crystal Bright

Crystal encouraged members and partners to take a moment to read through the operator report.

**WIOA Programs**

We are sitting at 94% of our monthly to-date target for total participants served, which is great, and we've edged up to 82% on total employed exits.

**WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Update**

Crystal Bright shared some of the highlights from WSCB:

WSCB hosted a visit from Nikkol Wymer from the Department of Labor, Military, and Veteran Families Intensive Service Coordinator. She received a tour and introductions to the team, learned about wrap-around veteran services in our office, and shared her experience. Results of the first annual staff engagement survey were shared with the WSCB Leadership team. The next steps include creating an action plan and rollout for the team.

Crystal shared that their business service team has expanded. Rather than be a WorkSource Columbia Basin Business Service Team, that team is now represented by WorkSource and TC futures members. Our goal is to make it easier to access the pipeline for employers and access services as needed outside of hiring. Members are presently working on protocols for reporting to ensure both centers are represented. WorkSource is slowly transitioning back to on-site hiring events – one scheduled for tomorrow – Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Some workshops have also been moved back to in-person based on customer needs.

Chair Todd Samuel inquired about the employers' satisfaction level during the hiring events.

Crystal, WSCB, felt they were a success, and employers were satisfied with the virtual job fair. The team has been innovative and flexible, committed to real-time employer feedback and making changes immediately.

**Other Business – All**

No additional business was discussed.

**Next Meeting:**

Adult & Employer Linkage Committee - Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 8:30 am on Zoom

Executive Board Meeting - Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 3:15 pm on Zoom

Full Board Meeting - Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 4:00 pm on Zoom

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 am

DocuSigned by:  
*Adolfo de Leon* 10/21/2022  
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Adolfo de León, Committee Chair Date

*Cyndelle Wood* 10/20/22  
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Cyndelle Wood, Admin. Assistant Date