



Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

August 17th, 2023, 4:00 p.m. – WorkSource Columbia Basin/Zoom Hybrid.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>BFWDC Staff</u>	<u>BFWDC Staff Excused</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Adolfo de Leon	Kate McAteer	David Chavey-Reynaud	Tiffany Alviso	Crystal Bright
Andrew Cook	Todd Samuel	Becky Tuno	Cynthia Garcia	Rebecca Williamson
Michael Lee	<u>Absent</u>	Carya Bair	Jessie Cardwell	Kelly Harnish
Geoff Arends	Karl Dye	Cyndelle Howell		

Call to Order

Adolfo de Leon started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Cyndelle read the roll call while everyone responded. She asked guests and system partners joining virtually online to put their names and organizations in the chat and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. A meeting quorum was present at 4:15 p.m.

Motion to approve AEL Committee Meeting Minutes

The July 20th, 2023, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting minutes were provided for members to review.

Michael Lee motioned to approve the July 20th, 2023, AEL Committee Minutes as presented, seconded by Adolfo deLeon; the motion was carried unanimously to approval.

Motion to Approve the Program Year 2023 (PY23) Subrecipient Monitoring Schedule – David Chavey-Reynaud

David discussed and overviewed the Subrecipient Monitoring Schedule attached to the meeting packet. This document is a comprehensive summary of the contracts that the BFWDC monitors throughout the program year, providing specific details regarding each contract that our fund source requires.

David, the BFWDC COO, recommends a motion to approve the PY23 subrecipient monitoring schedule as presented.

Andrew Cook motioned to approve the PY23 subrecipient monitoring schedule as presented, seconded by Michael Lee; the motion was carried unanimously to approval.

Motion to Approve Policy #2023-05: State & Federal EcSA Above 200% FPL – Becky Tuno

Becky informed the committee that in recognition of the work that Washington's workforce development system did to alleviate poverty through the Economic Security for All (EcSA) Initiative, Governor Inslee and the Legislature approved a \$6.2 million appropriation of state general funds for Program Year 2022 (Fiscal Year 2023) to be allocated to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to expand on the work previously done by local EcSA programs funded by the Governor's WIOA statewide activities funds. In Program Year 2023 (Fiscal Year 2024), the Legislature and Governor continued to allocate \$6.2 million per year for individuals below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) while also providing an additional \$2.6 million per year to serve individuals over 200% of the FPL but at who are at risk of falling into poverty.

This policy is updated and revised accordingly when updated requirements are issued by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA).

Becky Tuno, Community Programs Manager, recommends a motion to approve Policy #2023-05: State & Federal EcSA Above 200% FPL.

Adolfo de Leon motioned to approve Policy #2023-05: State & Federal EcSA Above 200% FPL as presented, seconded by Michael Lee; the motion was carried unanimously to approval.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) Update – Becky Tuno

WorkSource Columbia Basin has implemented a meet-and-greet orientation starting in July. This collaborative effort involves case managers, leadership, front-end services staff, and other partners. The purpose of the orientations is to have interested customers attend available sessions to learn about various programs to meet their needs and, if interested in moving forward, meet with case managers afterward to set up an appointment for the next steps rather than screening potential participants one-on-one saving case managers' time. This also leads to less time screening those customers who do not wish to move forward or are not yet prepared for the program enrollment. Customers have been able to connect with WIOA program case managers, as well as case managers from BFET, OIC, and CBC. Meet-and-greet orientations are offered three times a week in both English and Spanish. Leadership and staff have continued to see positive outcomes of these orientations, leading to high enrollments in Adult and Dislocated Worker programs and customers who are prepared and ready to meet their occupational goals, which is an added benefit.

For both programs, the quarter-one cap on funding is a challenge. Still, the staff collaborates with partners to help leverage funding and provide participants with the needed services.

Adult and Dislocated Worker enrollments exceed targets, and exits are behind for both. The progress of exits will continue to be monitored in the coming months.

Partners coming together to leverage funding and help participants has played a significant role in program success. Thank you to all those partners collaborating to strengthen our workforce system. There is power in partnership.

QUEST Update – Carya Bair

Carya Bair shared program highlights as of July 31, 2023, covering year-to-date spending, targets, services provided, and enrollments. She shared effective practices, employment trends, and program strategies.

Carya further discussed that WSCB continues to connect with community partners to provide a more significant customer resource pool. Some of these partnerships include the City of Richland and their event Community Support & Lunch. WSCB also participated with our community partner Compass Career Solutions at their Community Resource Fair- WSCB and OIC of Washington shared a table where both partners could speak to the attendees and give information regarding their services and programs. Between both events, WSCB assisted over 20 customers on-site by learning more about the services and programs available at WSCB.

Economic Security for All – Becky Tuno

Becky shared the State and Federal cumulative EcSA program performance summary in the meeting packet covering program highlights, total employed exits, and program spending through July 31, 2023. Becky provided EcSA program highlights, including challenges, outreach, partnership efforts, training enrollments, and employed exits. Federal EcSA employed exit outcomes are behind target as customers are working through training courses and have yet to enter employment. Currently, three customers are participating in training services under Federal and State EcSA. Those outcomes will be reported in the coming months.

Business Engagement – Carya Bair

Carya summarized the business engagement report covering performance factors: outreach performed, partners engaged, and targets. Business outreach and event outcomes, as well as highlights, were discussed. They continue to discuss hosting industry forums for workforce development with local employers and business leaders to close

the circle of feedback and engagement. A new member of the Business Services Team from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Byron DeVoe, represents the healthcare sector.

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Update – Crystal Bright

Crystal Bright shared the WorkSource operator report details included in the meeting materials. She emphasized July WorkSource site operations, including highlights and customer feedback. Crystal summarized service delivery, discussing career and business services and community connections.

Celebrate Champions – All

Adolfo de Leon shared that he is excited to celebrate champions. Adolfo reminded attendees that they're assisting and helping community members and partners daily in their work, and that's work done by all, not just one, but all working together.

Rebecca Williamson expressed appreciation for the DSHS employment pipeline and referrals being sent to WSCB and the WDC for the additional funding to serve more customers than projected.

Crystal Bright shared appreciation for the WSCB team and the work being done at the center in partnership with Columbia Basin College and Goodwill Industries in expanding their menu of services, including GED and Digital Literacy offerings.

Michael Lee thanked all for sharing the CBC Library Grand Opening announcement and extended the invitation to the committee.

Round Table/Agency Updates

David Chavey-Reynaud shared that their annual occupations in demand committee meeting will be held next week on August 24 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at WorkSource Columbia Basin in room 7; if members have not received the meeting invitation and details, please let David know, and he can forward that information. The occupations in demand list note every single field, whether in demand, balanced, or not in demand, and for most public workforce training dollars, the occupation that clients receive training for needs to be marked as in demand. ESD generates a preliminary list based on employment data they collect in Olympia. That list has been disbursed to each of the 12 WDAs, which can be modified based on local information or knowledge. They're encouraging partners to return any recommendations by Monday (08/21/23). Thursday, the committee will review all recommendations and generate the final list, which will be sent to ESD.

David informed attendees that the BFWDC purchased a media kit to capture success stories and partner community events with video and still image capabilities. If you have a success story that you would like to share or highlight, please reach out to David, as one of his objectives is creating more content to demonstrate and represent all of the incredible work done in their WDA.

Carya Bair notified all of ESD123, bringing nationally renowned speaker, CEO, and author Mark Perna to the region, discussing Answering Why: "Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Your Younger Generations." 2-hour sessions on Tuesday, October 10th and Wednesday, October 11th. Mark's presentation will encourage attendees to enhance their regional communication and collaboration efforts. Additionally, it will guide them in systematically pushing their boundaries and those of the community. This will expand skill sets, improve educational outcomes, and establish strong connections between education, workforce, and economic development pathways.

Michael Lee shared that Columbia Basin College was one of four in their system to be given a pilot grant tied to free and reduced lunches. It'll be approximately \$240,000 over three years, and they're trying to figure out how to use that to help students access more food in their food pantry, which is on both campuses, as well as access to meals

while they're attending college. This work will be run through their Workforce Education Center with Scott Koopman and his team. They are formulating a plan to get the money out to the students so they're not hungry and taking notes, learning material, and tests without worrying about where the next meal comes from.

Next Meeting

- Adult & Employer Linkage Committee: Thursday, September 21st, at 4:00 p.m., WSCB Room 8/Zoom.
- Quarterly Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 31st, at 4:00 p.m. WSCB Room 8/Zoom

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Adolfo de Leon, Vice-Chair 2/28/2024
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Adolfo de Leon, Vice-Chair Date

DocuSigned by:
Cyndelle A. Howell, Administrative Assistant
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Cyndelle Howell, Administrative Assistant Date