



Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

October 20th, 2022, at 8:30 am. – Zoom

Present	Excused	BFWDC Staff Present	Guests and Partners
C. Vice Chair, Adolfo de León Chair, Todd Samuel Jamie Rasmussen Jennie Weber Karl Dye Kate McAteer	Michael Lee	Becky Tuno Cyndelle Wood Cynthia Garcia David Chavey- Reynaud Isaac Estrada Jessie Cardwell Tiffany Alviso	Crystal Bright Heather Woodruff Carya Bair Israel Delamora

Call to Order

Todd Samuel started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Cyndelle Wood read the roll call while everyone responded. The meeting quorum was met. She asked guests and system partners to put their names and organization in the chat and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

Approval of Committee Minutes

The minutes from the July 21st, August 18th, and September 15th, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Jamie Rasmussen motioned to approve the July 21st, August 18th, & September 15th, 2022, AEL Committee Minutes as presented, seconded by Jennie Weber; the motion carried to approval.

Motion to Approve the PY22 Subrecipient Monitoring Schedule

The provided monitoring schedule is a comprehensive summary of all the contracts the BFWDC must monitor throughout the program year. This document provides specific details about each contract as a funding source requires. The board has awarded approximately \$3.7 million this year to continue serving our community. For comparison purposes, last program year, the board awarded roughly 4.8 million dollars. Our CEO has established a “diversification of funding plan and procedure” to increase our funding sources strategically. Not all our funding sources are from the Employment Security Department/Department of Labor. We have also been receiving resources from the Washington State Department of Commerce; they have been added to this plan. As presented, we are asking for a motion to approve the PY22 sub-recipient schedule.

Jenny Weber motioned to approve the PY22 Subrecipient Monitoring Schedule as presented; Jamie Rasmussen seconded; the motion carried to approval.

Occupations in Demand (OID)

Annually, Employment Security Department develops a list generated by different software to calculate occupations that are in demand, balanced, or not in demand. As the final step in this process, though, the occupations in demand list are given to the local workforce development areas to recommend any changes based on local expertise and the conditions of our area. In August this year, the BFWDC met with several workforce partners, business representatives, and board members to review the list. They recommended 26 revisions that were sent back to the Employment Security Department. This is a critical function of the BFWDC to ensure we indicate what opportunities are in demand or not for future opportunities or our job seekers and employers. The proposed revisions have already been submitted and approved by the full board, but to maintain consistency within our committees, we like to get a vote and get that on record.

Kate McAteer motioned to approve the OID list as presented; Jamie Rasmussen seconded; the motion carried to approval.

Motion to Approve the Adult and Employer Linkage Committee Chair

Jessie Cardwell presented the committee chair (Adolfo de Leon) nomination for PY22-23.

Jessie asked members if anyone else was interested in serving in this vital role – no other members came forward.

Jamie Rasmussen motioned to approve the re-election of Committee Chair Adolfo de Leon; Kate McAteer seconded; the motion carried to approval.

Motion to Approve the QUEST NDWG Subrecipient Contract in an amount not to exceed \$650,000 to Career Path Services, Effective December 1, 2022 – September 30th, 2024, Utilizing Sole Source Procurement.

Jessie Cardwell shared that in July, the BFWDC and ten other WDAs across the state applied for QUEST (Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training & Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant) (NDWG) funds. The Department of Labor (DOL) offered 140 million, and Washington State requested 15 million and was awarded the full amount for our area. The Department of Labor will use the typical dislocated worker formula to disperse the 15 million to the 11 WDAs. These funds will be used to enhance the public workforce system to help those that have lost their job and maybe are underemployed due to COVID-19. The focus is reaching marginalized populations and helping them get high-quality jobs, business partnerships, and training services. Washington state's contract with the DOL started on September 26th. They anticipate receiving a contract with the state at the end of November. They're looking to do a December 1st start in our local area. Due to this quick turnaround time, they did decide to sole source procure with Career Path Services as they are the current dislocated worker contractor. They have demonstrated success in these national dislocated worker grants through employment recovery and with their work with the Consortium for disaster recovery.

Jennie Weber recused from motion and discussion.

Jamie Rasmussen moved to approve the QUEST NDWG Subrecipient Contract in an amount not to exceed \$650,000 to Career Path Services, Effective December 1, 2022 – September 30th, 2024, Utilizing Sole Source Procurement, Kate McAteer seconded; the motion carried to approval.

WorkSource Columbia Basin Business Services Team Presentation

Carya Bair, a business services team member with Employment Security Department at WorkSource Columbia Basin, presented a slide deck overviewing services provided to business owners, employers, and community members at WSCB. Carya discussed what is offered to employers - workforce planning, labor market information coaching on online recruitment tools, how to recruit online worker training, staffing resources, access to job fairs and hiring events, and WSCB helps to plan those events. The key industries served in our area were also discussed: healthcare, entry-level government, manufacturing, construction, transportation, warehousing, agriculture, and food processing.

Kate McAteer, WSU Tri-Cities, commented on the lack of students for their wine industry pathway for people from all different backgrounds and is curious if WSCB works with the Washington Wine Growers Association. Carya stated they, in the past, have had their annual meeting at WorkSource and hiring events and have yet to return post-pandemic. WSU Tri-cities received a grant from Career Connect Washington to open a career launch program in Viticulture and Enology, you know, a career launch program. Kate will work as a liaison for WSCB and will bring this up.

It is best to reach the business services team helpline if you have any questions so they can route you to the appropriate person or team.

Economic Security for All

Becky Tuno discussed the EcSA program performance summary included within the meeting packet covering program highlights and total employed exits for September.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

This is the hunger relief program; we place people to help support the food service site. Becky discussed the challenges in program placement as only two sites are available. Staff continues to work to try to find additional locations we can place people at but overall, when we look at the number of community members that are low to moderate income we are now sitting at for the quarter, just over 60,000 being impacted through this contract, which is one and a half times our program target and we'll continue to see this number increase.

Together We Rise – Outreach to Historically Disadvantaged Communities

Isaac Estrada communicated that they've been making great efforts to connect underserved populations throughout Benton and Franklin counties to services and programs. Part of their project initiative for OHDC is an outreach element. They've been utilizing funds to purchase branded promotional items and swag for several of their partners and seeing some great results. They're continuing to find ways to use these dollars to assist with outreach and are working with other partners to process their initial request. They've been looking into more unique ways to reach populations outside of traditional outreach of branding and materials (radio, newsletters, etc.).

They are conducting focus groups as the research component for this grant to find the best ways to communicate and find the right messaging to connect underserved populations to employment or other programs and services that our partners have to offer. They're hoping to use the data from these focus groups to contribute to an outreach guide that they intend to develop to provide a resource for local organizations and partners that want to continue doing outreach and find the most effective ways to do so to various underserved communities.

They also have an eligibility survey that is still active. They are looking to screen eligible participants who want to be part of these paid focus groups and are offering a \$50 incentive. Currently, they have 30 to 40 eligible respondents (goal of 80 to 90). The day when these focus groups will happen depends on when they receive enough eligible participants, and they are hoping for the end of October.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Update

Jessie Cardwell provided an overview of the Adult and the Dislocated Worker programs and noted the substantial numbers within them and appreciates the strategic partnerships, recruitment, and outreach that's going on to help these programs be successful, as well as all the partners, referring to them and business services for talking about the components and working to utilize the customers from these programs to staff up the businesses that need it.

L&I Apprenticeship Grants

Becky Tuno shared that the Washington State Department of Labor and Industry began issuing grants for apprenticeship programs to increase access and improve experiences across the state. They have recently announced that 8 million will be awarded – the application is open until the end of the year.

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Operator Update

Crystal Bright discussed the WorkSource operator report in the packet. She reviewed some of their highlights around transformational business services and reaching out to local businesses needing staffing. Most recently, they worked together to complete the Wagner Pizer self-appraisal. That is a full system all, hands-on deck appraisal, and they are so proud of those efforts and the shifts the team has made, as well as looking at ways to use those results to inform future certification and inform how they are appraising across the year.

Next Meeting

- Adult & Employer Linkage Committee - Thursday, November 17th, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom
- Executive Committee - Tuesday, October 25th, at 3:00 p.m.
- Quarterly Board Meeting - Tuesday, October 25th, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:
Adolfo de Leon 12/29/2022
732FA783AA4C483...

Adolfo de León, Committee Chair Date

Cyndelle Wood, Admin. Assistant Date