



Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)
Quarterly Board Meeting
October 26, 2021
4:00 p.m. – Zoom

Board - Present

Commissioner Will McKay
Todd Samuel
Adolfo DeLeon
Dennis Williamson
Michael Lee
Bob Legard
Carlos Martinez
Carol Moser
Alicia Perches
David Phongsu
Jamie Rasmussen
Jennie Weber
Jim Smith
Karl Dye
Lori Mattson
Lynn Ramos-Braswell

Board - Excused

Commissioner Clint Didier
Richard Bogert
Mary Mills
Kate McAteer
Michael Bosse

Absent

N/A

BFWDC Staff

Tiffany Scott
Jan Warren
David Chavey-Reynaud
Diana Hamilton
Cynthia Garcia
Jessie Cardwell
DeAnn Bock

Excused BFWDC Staff

Jamilet Nerell

Guest Presenters

Ajsa Suljic
Crystal Bright
Carya Bair
Jennifer Easterly
Melanie Olson

Call to Order

Todd Samuel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Tiffany Scott presented a land tribute acknowledging the traditional, ancestral territories of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, Umatilla, and Palouse 1st Nations.

Tiffany Scott reported excused absences and conducted a roll call of the Benton-Franklin County Commissioners, BFWDC Board Members, and BFWDC Staff.

Tiffany Scott welcomed guests, who introduced themselves using the Zoom chat feature.

Todd Samuel also welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for taking the time to support the mission and vision of the BFWDC.

Todd Samuel asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Todd Samuel referred members to the board packet filled with valuable information.

Consent Agenda

Todd Samuel asked members if they wanted any consent agenda items removed for individual consideration. The response was no.

- Approval of Board Minutes
To approve July 27, 2021, Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes as presented

- Finance Reports
To adopt the BFWDC Finance Reports as submitted for the period ending August 2021
- Local Policy #2021-01 Data Element Validation
- Local Policy #2021-02 Measurable Skills Gain

Todd Samuel called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion moved by Michael Lee, the second by Dennis Williamson, and carried to approval.

BFWDC Officers Election

The memo was presented listing the current officer positions with recommendations of those who agreed to serve. The election was opened for any volunteers to add their names. The slate of officers was listed as follows:

- **Board Chair** – Todd Samuel
- **Past Chair** – Vacant
- **Vice-Chair Representing the Adult and Employer Linkage Committee (AEL)** – Adolfo de Leon
- **Vice-Chair Representing the Youth Committee (YC)** – Dennis Williamson

Carol Moser moved to approve the slate of board officers as listed, seconded by Will McKay. Motion carried.

Chief Executive Officer Presentation

Tiffany Scott presented a slide deck that covered the progress of the BFWDC. The following was highlighted.

- July 2019-June 2020 statistically comparison to July 2020-June 2021 regarding WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) staff-assisted job seekers, staff assisted job seeker services, unique businesses served, and staff provided business services.
- July 2020-June 2021 data points regarding Tri-Cities (TC) Futures youth served, out of school youth served, open-door youth served, co-enrolled youth, GED attainment, out of school youth employed, or in post-secondary education.
- BFWDC Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021) team accomplishment highlights.
- BFWDC Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021) preview of team targets.
- Expressions of gratitude from the BFWDC staff to Benton-Franklin County Commissioners, Board Members, Ex-Officio Members, Workforce System Partners, Fund Sources, Contractors, Community Stakeholders, Business/Employers, Workers/Job Seekers.

Regional Labor Market Economist Presentation

Ajsa Suljic, Regional Economist for the Employment Security Department (ESD), presented a slide deck that encompassed the state of our local economy and forecasts for a recovery in Benton and Franklin Counties. The following was highlighted.

- Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas.
- Seasonally adjusted Unemployment Insurance (UI) rate trends.
- United States Bureau of Labor Statistics civilian labor force in Kennewick-Richland (MSA) from January 1990 to January 2020.
- Washington State labor force participation rate by county.
- Labor force flows from 2008 to 2020.
- UI statistics from January 2017 to June 2021
- UI rate by county (not seasonally adjusted) for September 2021.
- Employment statistics for non-farm employment and the labor force from 2002 to 2020.

