



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

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

October 21, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>BFWDC Staff Present</u>
Adolfo de León-Chair	Tiffany Scott	Lori Mattson	David Chavey-Reynaud
Jennie Weber		Michael Lee	Diana Hamilton
Jamie Rasmussen		Karl Dye	Jamilet Nerell
		Todd Samuel	Cynthia Garcia
			Jessie Cardwell
			<u>Presenters</u>
			Crystal Bright
			Suzanne Suyama

**Call to Order**

Adolfo started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Jamilet 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 of September 16, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

**Jamie Rasmussen moved to approve September 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Jennie Weber. Motion carried.**

**Election of Committee Chair(s)-Diana**

Diana stated it is the time of year to choose the chair for each committee, and each elected committee chair sits on the Executive Committee. Adolfo agreed to serve as the Adult Employer Linkage (AEL) committee chair for the next year, and Jamie Rasmussen agreed to provide support by facilitating meetings in the event Adolfo is unable to attend. Thank you to Adolfo and Jamie for their support. Diana asked if anyone would like to co-chair the AEL committee meetings with Adolfo. No interest was presented. Diana called for a vote from this committee to appoint Adolfo as the committee chair. The committee's recommendation will go before the executive committee, and if approved, this agenda item will move to the full board for a vote on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Jennie Weber moved to approve Adolfo as the Chair of the Adult & Employer Linkage Committee, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen Jennie Weber. Motion carried.**

This recommendation will go before the full board for a vote on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**BFWDC Highlights**

**PY21 Department of Labor (DOL) Disaster /Employment Recovery Monitoring Visit-Diana**

Diana announced that the DOL monitoring visit is scheduled for December 13-17, 2021. This monitoring will be virtual, and DOL is selecting the local areas that they will review. We will provide you with an update as soon as we know if the BFWDC will be monitored in December. We are hoping to find out within the next couple of weeks.

### **Disaster and Employment Recovery Updates – Diana**

Diana shared the entire state is significantly behind in expenditures in both grants. To give all twelve (12) Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) more time to expend these funds, the Employment Security Department (ESD) will be submitting a no-cost extension application to the DOL in January of 2022. They want to extend the contracts from March 31, 2022, for up to twelve (12) additional months. For DOL to consider a period of performance extension, each area requesting an extension must fully justify why more time is needed, update the timeline of grant activities, outcomes, and deliverables, and provide a budget. ESD plans to submit the application to DOL the first week of January, and then DOL has up to 60 days to respond. BFWDC staff will submit an extension request for both programs, and work with our subrecipients, Career Path Services (CPS) and the Consortium, to determine how long of an extension is needed to continue providing services to our customers and expend our funding.

Diana directed board members to refer to the program performance summaries for specific program information.

### **Economic Security for All - Jamilet**

Jamilet reminded everyone that updates provided are mainly at the BFWDC level; we provide monthly narratives for each program, in advanced to ensure those are reviewed and questions can be asked at this meeting.

Jamilet stated we are going into the second phase of the EcSA evaluation, which is part of this pilot program to identify areas to improve. It is never to figure out whether we are doing things wrong but rather to learn from previous experience. For us locally, the second phase of the evaluation is to provide an exit survey to customers on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Outcomes of this survey will be presented once the evaluation team puts together the reporting.

Jamilet also shared that EcSA now has an enrollment touchpoint in the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) system, where we put all of our data for our participants. In previous months, because it was a pilot program, we were using a different enrollment category. Now EcSA has been expanded, and we have access to services across the state; we now have an identifiable touchpoint enrollment for EcSA. This is a huge win for us in the EcSA world.

With our funding coming to an end next calendar year in March 2022, we are starting to have conversations with ESD on what it may look like in the next funding cycle. We are very excited that this pilot could be extended to all WDC's sites across the state. I will be providing you month-by-month updates on what this second round of funding may look like for us here in Benton- Franklin.

### **Liaison Report – David**

Davis presented that in September, we saw a drop in customers coming to Worksource across all services. However, are we're still significantly up compared to where we were last year, by 52% in staff-assisted job seekers, 109% in total staff-assisted services to job seekers, and 154% and 203% in unique number of businesses served and staff provided Business Services respectively. Ajsa said this is seasonal, and we should see an uptick in interest for services shortly. For TC Futures, the numbers are a little bit more stable. The numbers in red or green off to the right of these figures are month-to-month changes. TC Futures youth served were down by seven (7), but the Out of School Youth (OSY) program is up by ten (10). David is excited about where we are with our Title I programs, outcomes, and enrollment targets. We are sitting at 99% for our monthly to date targets for total participants served and at 82% of our monthly to date target for total employed exits. If you have been following the liaison report over the past couple of years, we have not been that close for a long time. There is a lot of great work happening at the centers, and we're proud of our staff. As a reminder for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), because of how we are running our Disaster Recovery program, we have funding available from multiple sources that go

towards the same goal. Right now, we are trying to push participants into the Disaster Recovery program because it lapses significantly sooner than CDBG. We have a plan to transition those enrolled in Disaster Recovery participants in CDBG when Disaster Recovery ends. Other WDC's across the state are dealing with the same issue.

David stated our top occupations and top licenses have largely remained unchanged from month to month. We have a 0.3% increase in unemployment compared to last month. However, we are still significantly down compared to 2022. In August 2019, we were sitting at the unemployment of 4.6% in Benton County and 4.9% in Franklin County. We are off by 0.2%, 0.3% in both counties compared to pre-pandemic levels.

In other news, we have begun reporting out on our LinkedIn learning numbers again. We are setting targets with our workforce system; we have 700 licenses in LinkedIn learning that we're trying to use by July of 2022. We will include this metric in the liaison report that counts or tracks our progress towards that goal. These will be total licenses served, including what we use internally for professional development; BFWDC has some licenses. Worksource Columbia Basin (WSCB) is using licenses for the staff there, and TC Futures is using licenses for the staff there. Licenses are available for businesses as well as community partners. If anybody is interested in attaining some LinkedIn learning licenses for internal use for your incumbent workers, please reach out to our Business Services Team, and they can hook you up. We are also ensuring that our job seekers and employment specialists also make sure our job-seeking customers know of the licenses. Job seekers are where we would like the majority of the licenses to go.

Davis presented that for COVID-19 job recovery, we're still hovering around 92%. That is approximately where we were last month. There hasn't been a lot of change in the job market right now. We lost 200 jobs last month. But again, based on my last conversation with Ajsa, that is largely seasonal, and we should see those numbers start to increase next month.

### **WorkSource Update – Crystal**

Crystal shared that we continue to see a high focus in the area of recruiting. The golden standard is connecting our job seekers and business customers and employee outcomes. A lot of effort in September was spent working on connections within the community. In the report, you will see one of the highlights is our work with Columbia Basin College. Our Business Services Team is looking at integrating our partners even outside of the center to do important work, such as reaching out to businesses. Several advisory committees are already formed with our partners at Columbia Basin College that are sector-based. Business Service Team members can join those groups and hear from those employers in a more streamlined way. The Business Service Team has been working with our business service partners in Spokane and Yakima to be able to address regional needs and figure out new and different ways to be able to connect a larger candidate pool to those businesses that are hiring. Super excited and proud of the creativity that's occurring there. Also, there is an annual Wagner-Peyser self-appraisal, and as we continue integrating here at WSCB, we're finding new and creative ways to come together on those types of things. She shared that we did complete that Wagner-Peyser self-appraisal in September, and there was full partnership involvement. Crystal said she feels the silver lining of this whole pandemic has seen the team come together and how they are finding new and creative ways to work together.

Jenny asked, "David, on the report, it shows the recovery COVID job recovery percentile? Do we know how many businesses are permanently closed? And how many new businesses are forming or have opened this year? I think it is I think it's important because the percentage is kind of a little bit confusing. It implies that of all of the jobs that were impacted in 2020. We found our way back at 92%. But I think all of us know there; there have been permanent closures. And then you know, the new development. The curiosity is about what are the new businesses that are helping that percentage go up?"

David responded that Ajsa would be able to expand on that a lot more than he could. To make sure I'm articulating how it was calculated. That's 92% of the job loss that happened from March to April. Let's say we lost, for number's sake, to make it easy on me 10,000 jobs, and we have recovered approximately 9200 jobs, which means we're still 800 compared to pre-pandemic levels. He will talk to Ajsa and get more of an idea of where that shifting has occurred.

Diana asked if Jenny wanted that information going forward, and Jenny confirmed that yes, she would.

**Child Care Aware – Susanne Suyama**

Suzanne introduced herself and said that she works for Community-Minded Enterprises in a statewide program called Child Care Aware. She gave an update on her agency and the state of child care in Benton and Franklin Counties. She used a PowerPoint slide deck to guide the presentation- ppt was provided within the AEL packet.

**Next Meeting:** The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

**Adjournment**

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.**

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*Adolfo de Leon* 11/18/2021  
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Adolfo de León, Committee Chair Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Jessie Cardwell* 11/18/2021  
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Jessie Cardwell, Programs Coordinator Date