



Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

June 16, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>BFWDC Staff Present</u>
Jamie Rasmussen	Adolfo de León-Chair	Lori Mattson	Tiffany Alviso
Todd Samuel	Jessie Cardwell	Michael Lee	Cynthia Garcia
Jennie Weber		Jim Smith	Diana Hamilton
		Karl Dye	David Chavey-Renaud
			Isaac Estrada
			<u>Presenters</u>
			Crystal Bright

Call to Order

Jamie started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Cynthia 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 May 19, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Todd Samuel moved to approve May 19, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen. Motion carried.

PY22 WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker Formula Allocation E-vote - Diana

Diana thanked the committee for approving the PY22 WIOA Formula Adult contract to Career Path Services in the amount of \$568,307 with that first quarter cap not to exceed \$142,077 as well as the PY22 WIOA Formula Dislocated Worker contract to Career Path Services in the amount of \$759,763 with the first quarter cap not to exceed \$189,941. These numbers reflect a 9% statewide cut in funding and local cuts of 13% for Adult and 17% for Dislocated Worker funding. We did receive \$95,713 in restoration funds for Dislocated Worker program, which will help mitigate the 17% cut. She also explained that the e-vote was necessary due to the quick turn around in getting contracts back to the state on time.

Economic Security for All (EcSA) – David

We are two months into round two of EcS which expanded the service area to include Benton and Franklin Counties. Round three will start in July. Coenrollment has been successful into round two, and will also be for round three. Exits remain a challenge but staff continue to work diligently to alleviate barriers for customers. We are 6.8% spent in round two of EcSA funding.

PY21 State Monitoring Update – Diana

Diana shared some of the observations made by the state monitors during their visit regarding Adult, Dislocated Worker, Disaster and Employment Recovery programs. The state annual monitoring lasted 2 weeks, with the first week on-site and the second week monitored virtually. They were impressed with how good the participant files

looked overall, especially with the amount of turnover our subrecipients experienced this year. The monitors felt the Back to Basics Refresher Training our subrecipient provided to their staff was a key factor in their ability to consistently adhere to eligibility requirements, maintain accurate data entry in ETO and document the services provided in case notes. The state monitors passed along kudos to Career Path Services and the Consortium on a job well done. Congratulations!

The monitors also reviewed the WDC's WIOA program policies, notices, and technical assistance and found all to be compliant. The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Quarterly monitoring process was noted as a best practice because it identifies issues early on and allows the BFWDC to provide ongoing technical assistance throughout the year. They also recognized our Question & Answer Technical Assistance spreadsheet as an excellent tool for our service providers to reference the technical assistance provided by the BFWDC.

The virtual exit interview was held on Thursday, June 9th, and the BFWDC now has 30 days to submit any corrections needed. Once the state monitors issue our WIOA Management Letter, we will present the Monitoring Summary to this committee, which contains both the BFWDC Subrecipient Monitoring Report and the State Annual Monitoring Report identifying any findings, questioned costs, disallowed costs and best practices.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)– David

The figures for CDBG are the same as last month as these numbers are reported quarterly. WE have submitted a contract extension to the state requesting an additional five months and moving the end date from January 2023 to June 2023. CDBG started later due to waiting for Disaster Recovery to be transitioned to CDBG, the extension will allow contract obligations to be met.

Disaster and employment Recovery spending- Diana

Diana stated that the state grant managers are very happy with the spending in both programs, and pass along congratulations. We are on track expend both contract and begin the close out process in the next couple of months as both contracts end June 30th. Todd asked why the cost per participant was higher for the recovery funds. Diana stated it is because these programs had different deliverables than the WIOA programs as they were awarded to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. She also explained that with costs for things like gas, clothing, wages, etc. going up we will see costs per participants in the formula programs going up. Diana shared the higher costs per participant was discuss during the BFWDC's quarterly performance meeting and the state grant managers are well aware costs are increasing in conversations with WDAs around the state.

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

Isaac shared we are currently in phase on which is the research phase. We are gathering information from partners, workforce providers, vendors and stake holders to identify optimal communication channels to serve the demographics of this grant. WE want to include focus groups and interviews to the populations and demographics we want to serve to be able to understand their needs and how to communicate with them the best. As we gather more information we will continue to update and adjust our outreach strategy.

Tri-Cities Futures Update – Cynthia

The traffic numbers went down from last month at TC Futures, but the enrollments into Open Doors and Out of School Youth (OSY) increased by 51! The numbers of GED's nearly doubled, this is due to the second GED testing room. She highlighted a customer and outlined the power of partnership that served the customer. ESD123 on behalf of TC Futures has a fully executed contract with the Department of Human Services to receive support service dollars to help end homelessness in Benton and Franklin Counties. These dollars can assist with emergency housing, moving costs, rental assistance and utilities fees at the time of move-in. Another great opportunity that came to TC Futures was a grant by the Legal Counsel for Youth and Children- specific to housing. There were 4 finalists and TC Futures was one of them. Unfortunately, were not awarded the grant. However, Melanie continues

to look for opportunities to expand the services offered at TC Futures, and is doing a fantastic job at making important connections.

Cynthia informed members that a case manager at TC Futures was recently promoted to Lead Practitioner and is now partnering with WSCB Business Services team to bring more business connections to TC Futures.

Cynthia and Melanie are working together to make a couple of fixes to the facility that were identified by the Equal Opportunity Officers from the state.

TC Futures has a graduation today, the ceremony begins at 5:30 PM. All are invited.

Liaison Report – David

David shared details of the Liaison Report:

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB)

- Our month-to-month numbers have gone up gradually across all areas.

WIOA Programs

- We are at 96% of the monthly total served participant target and 73% employed monthly exit target.

Unemployments for Benton County is down 0.0% to 4.5% and for Franklin County is down 1.6% to 5.8%. We are sitting pretty compared to previous years.

Todd asked for the top one or two reasons why our exit numbers are down. Heather responded by saying that for EcSA it is the wage threshold, and for the other programs Covid-19 has created a lot of barriers that she hasn't seen such as child care scarcity, food insecurity and housing insecurity. She is seeing longer program participation and a higher need for support services.

David said that last year at this time our exit percentage was 54% so it is getting better.

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Update – Crystal

Crystal shared some of the highlights from WSCB:

- WSCB was one of six American Job Centers to receive the Jobs for Veterans Grant incentive award. This is due to all staff working together to serve veterans, not just veteran's staff. (They are not sure what the award looks like and if there is money attached)
- Equal Opportunity (EO) Monitoring was completed at WSCB. Huge thank you to Cynthia and Mari, corrections are being worked on.
- RESEA, TAA, Wagner/Peyser monitoring went very well and they received a lot of kudos from the state. They received high praise for front end services, and for being an integrated group.
- New Grow with Google certification will be available in June.
- We continue to trend ahead of the rest of the state for LinkedIn licenses used.

Other Business - All

Next Meeting: The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 8:30 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 AM.

DocuSigned by:

Jamie Rasmussen

7/26/2022

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Jamie Rasmussen, Board Member Date

DocuSigned by:

Jessie Cardwell

7/27/2022

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Jessie Cardwell, Programs Coordinator Date