



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

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

January 20, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom

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

**Call to Order**

Adolfo started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:32 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 November 18, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

*Todd Samuel moved to approve November 18, 2021, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen. Motion carried.*

**BFWDC Highlights**

**Disaster and Employment Recovery E-Votes - Diana**

Diana thanked everyone for approving the e-vote motion to increase the Disaster and Employment Recovery contract amounts. This enables our subrecipients to continue serving our community for an additional two months through May 31, 2022. She stated both the Benton-Franklin Workforce Consortium (BFWC) and Career Path Services (CPS) have done an excellent job of providing employment and training opportunities to our customers. By providing temporary disaster employment relief placements, employers were able to offset the impacts of COVID.

**Additional Rapid Response Allocation - Diana**

The state had a total of \$1,478,170 million in unspent obligated rapid response funds that were over a year old. The governor has the option to transfer one-year-old unobligated funds into the governor's reserve, but he did not exercise that option. Instead, the state forwarded these funds directly into local dislocated worker allocations. Employment Security Department (ESD) awarded the BFWDC an additional \$106,348 that must be spent by June 30, 2022. The contract with the state for these funds is fully executed.

### **South Central Staff Visit – Diana**

The BFWDC was excited to have six staff members from South Central Workforce Development Council (SCWDC) visit our area in December. They were interested in hearing the strategies that were implemented to support our seamless, customer-focused integrated service delivery system utilizing our two integrated functional teams, both business services and front-end services. After discussing strategies with SCWDC, they had the opportunity to tour WorkSource and TC Futures to observe the service delivery models in action. It is a compliment when another high performing area wants to visit our one-stop to hear about our strategies and best practices to enhance their service delivery system,

### **ESD Recognition Letter for Positive Performance – Diana**

Diana directed attendees to look in their packets for the ESD letter recognizing the positive performance outcomes during the first quarter of PY21 for both WIOA Title I and discretionary contracts. Diana congratulated our subrecipients, the BFWC and CPS, for having the state recognize their hard work and dedication in serving our customers, especially during these very challenging times.

### **Economic Security for All (EcSA) - Jamilet**

In the previous months, Jamilet mentioned the second phase of the EcSA pilot program evaluation is currently happening. She meets with the Social Policy Research (SPR) Associates every quarter to discuss how things are going and evolving (or conversations are inclusive of adaptation, challenges, success- based on quarterly reports sent to state). This evaluation will continue with gathering data from the Program Exit Survey through March of 2022. Jamilet will share outcomes when they are available.

The second round of EcSA funding conversations is happening (total award of \$280,489.24), we are planning and strategizing the execution of this funding. This funding will be available starting April 1, 2022, and in a couple of months, we will execute that contract, and details will be presented to the AEL committee.

As part of being an initiative across WA State, the EcSA programs attend and present to the Technical Advisory Group on a rotation basis – all WDCs will have to present. Benton-Franklin will be presenting in January. Jamilet will outline services for the second round of EcSA and how we will be implementing them.

We are also preparing for our annual monitoring of EcSA leading to the state monitoring happening in May.

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Jamilet**

Jamilet shared there were five placements in January to help with food distribution in our local area. We are working with 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest and Pasco Community Services as both sites have been approved to receive funding under CDBG. Outcomes will be reported as we collect the data; there is one performance outcome that will be reported quarterly (Community Impact).

Jamilet reminded everyone to review the performance summaries in the packets.

Monitoring- Commerce will monitor us sometime next year, after at least three (3) months of direct participant expenditures. They will give us notice of when monitoring will occur. We were allowed to provide feedback on the monitoring checklist used by Commerce to conduct monitoring. Once dates are finalized, Jamilet will inform the committee.

### **Liaison Report – Diana**

Diana informed committee members that David was unable to attend today's meeting. She encourage members to forward any questions about the Liaison Report to David who will respond upon his return.

### **WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Update – Crystal**

Crystal shared some of the highlights from WorkSource, Columbia Basin (WSCB).

- Staff were honored to host a tour of WSCB with the BFWDC for SCWDC.
- The Business Services team is hosting a WorkSource LinkedIn page intended to reach business customers in a way their Facebook page cannot. The Business Services will also host an event in February for new businesses, a year old or less, to provide them information on WSCB services.
- Crystal also shared some ways that the team has been innovative during the pandemic. The Front-End Services team is working closely with the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker team to help with the seasonal unemployment for industries such as agriculture and construction.

### **Other Business - All**

Israel de la Mora from Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington shared they are doing face-to-face services and still utilize technology for virtual services as needed. They are limited as to how many people can be in their center at a time, and have not had capacity issues. They are co-enrolling many customers into Commercial Drives License (CDL) training with the Adult and Dislocated Worker program. Call their mainline to make any referrals.

Israel stated that it has been more challenging lately to place CDL drivers fresh out of training. Since September, employers have raised the bar and are requiring six months to one year of experience before they will hire. He is not sure why this change has occurred suddenly. He did say it is normal to be a little slower this time of year; historically, they pick up with employment placements in February, March, and April. Jamilet stated that is what we see this trend locally as well.

Adolfo de Leon shared that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) currently has long hold times on the phones. He said this has been the case since October, but usually long hold times don't start until January. All of their resources are on the phones. They have a skeleton crew in their lobby to help with EBT cards and support services. They are hiring across the state to assist with the long phone times, as this is their main way to serve clients at this time. He did say that two out of his last four hires came from referrals from WSCB, and he will continue to send job postings our way.

Jamie Rasmussen shared that Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is working from home until March 15<sup>th</sup>. There is some staff at their main office in Kennewick. Their lobbies are not open; the staff performs only office functions. They are meeting with customers virtually.

Crystal Bright shared Labor & Industries has a person who meets people in person by appointment only; otherwise, they are working from home. Columbia Basin College (CBC) is providing limited services at the Workforce Education Center on campus; no one is at WSCB at this time. ESD and CPS are serving mostly in person, which has created a lot of flexibility for our customers. They still encourage by appointment only but have space to accommodate walk-ins. Keeping staff and customers safe is the top priority.

**Next Meeting:** The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.**

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Adolfo de León, Committee Chair      Date

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Jessie Cardwell, Programs Coordinator      Date