



Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

April 21, 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	Karl Dye	Lori Mattson	Tiffany Scott
Jennie Weber	Diana Hamilton	Michael Lee	Jamilet Nerell
Jamie Rasmussen	David Chavey-Renaud	Todd Samuel	Cynthia Garcia
Jim Smith			Jessie Cardwell
			 <u>Presenters</u>
			Crystal Bright

Call to Order

Adolfo started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 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 from March 17, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Jamie Rasmussen moved to approve March 17, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Jennie Weber. Motion carried.

COVID-19 Disaster Recovery DWG Contract Extension through June 30, 2022, to the Benton Franklin Workforce Consortium – Jessie

Jessie shared that the Employment Security Department offered all local areas that did not apply for a no-cost extension the option to extend the Disaster Recovery contract from May 31, 2022, to June 30, 2022. As a reminder, the last disaster relief employment position, the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Outreach Coordinator, ended on February 1st, and all disaster relief food distribution workers transitioned to the Community Development Block program in January. This extension will allow subrecipient staff additional time to focus on participants in need of training and wrap-around support.

After an extensive review of the remaining budget, performance deliverables, and community needs, BFWDC staff recommends extending the contract end date through June 30th for the Disaster Recovery contract to the Benton-Franklin Workforce Consortium (BFWC). If approved, the recommendation will be included in the consent agenda at the Quarterly Board Meeting on April 26th.

Jamie Rasmussen moved to approve the COVID-19 Disaster DWG Contract Extension through June 30, 2022, to the Benton Franklin Workforce Consortium as presented, seconded by Adolfo de León. Jennie Weber Abstained. Motion carried.

COVID-19 Employment Recovery DWG Contract Extension through June 30, 2022, to Career Path Services

– Jessie

Jessie shared the Employment Security Department also offered the option to extend the Employment Recovery contract to June 30, 2022. This extension will allow subrecipient staff additional time to assist permanently laid-off individuals by using the remaining funds for training and wrap-around supports.

BFWDC staff recommends extending the contract end date through June 30, 2022, for the Employment Recovery contract to the Career Path Services. If approved, the recommendation will be included in the consent agenda at the Quarterly Board Meeting on April 26th.

Adolfo de León moved to approve the COVID-19 Disaster DWG Contract Extension through June 30, 2022, to the Benton Franklin Workforce Consortium as presented, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen. Jennie Weber Abstained. Motion carried.

Economic Security for All (EcSA) - Jamilet

Jamilet shared that the EcSA is here to stay, and with the round two funds, we will be able to serve rural communities in Benton and Franklin Counties. Our main goal for round two funding is to increase employment placements leading to self-sufficiency and move families out of poverty—the timeline for this second is April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Jamilet will share the performance goals next month for round two.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Jamilet

Jamilet shared we are currently working with Pasco Community Services and Second Harvest. Both agencies have been receiving funds since January of this year, and we are at 50% of our target participant placements to date. Also, we have served 18,263 low to moderate-income individuals under this project. We are at 45% of our target goal of 40,000 individuals under this category. Jamilet encouraged board members to read the performance summaries and the CDBG success story.

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

Jamilet welcomed Isaac Estrada to the team as the Communications Coordinator for the OHDC-Together We Rise project. Isaac introduced himself and said he comes from a predominantly Spanish-speaking household, and in his background, he has worked with this population and cannot wait to get started.

Our Communications Coordinator, Isaac, will be researching to help identify the communication pipelines to disadvantaged communities. We know there are barriers that the urban and rural black, indigenous people of color, urban and tribal Indians, immigrants and refugees, single parents with young children, women and monolingual Spanish speakers, and other historically disadvantaged populations face when communicating and connecting to workforce development resources and services. The main focus of this project will be to connect these populations to the services that WorkSource Columbia Basin, and TC Future for Employment, and Training Resources. Isaac will be reaching out to system partners to learn about their services, outreach strategies, and develop ways to refer individuals. Feedback for this project is appreciated.

Tri-Cities Futures Update – Cynthia

Cynthia stated it was requested she provide an update on TC Futures at this meeting and will do so going forward. She will go over the TC Futures report here next time, and from now on, she will present highlights and focus less on the report but wants to explain what the numbers mean. She continued to go over the report.

Cynthia also shared that TC Futures has expanded its footprint and will be having an Open House on Friday, April 22nd, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; everyone is welcome to stop by. Community resources will be there assisting youth.

Liaison Report – Jessie, Cynthia, and Jamilet

Jessie, Cynthia, and Jamilet shared details of the Liaison Report:

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB)

- There is more traffic coming into WSCB, as shown by the Qtrac graph on the second page.
- Numbers are comparative to pre-pandemic levels, which is exciting.

TC Futures

- TC Futures is doing amazing with their outreach; check out the Facebook page if you haven't.
- TC Futures traffic numbers are all customers who walk into TC Futures.
- TC Futures total youth enrolled are those customers enrolled in the Out-of-School Youth Program and/or the Open Doors program.

WIOA Programs

- We are at 97% of the monthly total served participant target and 78% employed monthly exit target.

CDBG and EcSA

- EcSA numbers will carry on with round two of funding, and numbers will increase from there. Employment placements is a priority for the next round of funding.
- CDBG is at 45% of the target for serving low to moderate-income individuals and 50% for placement of participants, LMI targets will be added to the next Liaison report.

Jessie shared unemployment numbers are similar to last month and last year.

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Update – Crystal

Crystal shared some of the highlights from WSCB:

- The Hanford hiring event was a huge success; 1119 of 1500 people attended, 74%.
- They continue to monitor the number of served customers as they have a 5% increase from last year as their goal.
- They have created a new workshop that intends to connect customers quickly and efficiently to the variety of services at WSCB.
- Crystal shared that WSCB is fully open, which means business as usual, still operating with 6 feet of social distancing, masks being worn during one-on-one appointments, and that they do not turn people away. There are still virtual options as well.

Cynthia added that TC Futures is fully open as well. They maintain a visitor log for contact tracing purposes, and they follow the ESD123 guidelines similar to the school districts.

Other Business - All

The two 15-second commercials developed by the WSCB Equity committee will be emailed to AEL Members after the meeting.

Next Meeting: The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Adolfo de León

May 24, 2022

Adolfo de León, Committee Chair

Date

Jessie Cardwell

05.24.2022

Jessie Cardwell, Programs Coordinator Date

2022-04-21 AEL Minutes

Final Audit Report

2022-05-24

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