



Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council (BFWDC)

Adult & Employer Linkage (AEL) Committee

March 17, 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
Karl Dye		Michael Lee	David Chavey-Reynaud
Jamie Rasmussen		Jim Smith	Diana Hamilton
Todd Samuel			Jamilet Nerell
			Cynthia Garcia
			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 of January 20, 2022 and February 17, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meetings were provided for members to review.

Todd Samuel moved to approve January 20, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Adolfo de León. Motion carried.

Todd Samuel moved to approve February 17, 2022, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Adolfo de León. Motion carried.

WorkSource System Policy (WSP)-01 Rapid Response Policy – Jessie

Jessie presented the WorkSource System Rapid Response Policy and stated the intent is to inform the One-stop System of the rapid response team's roles and responsibilities when providing rapid response services to employers and impacted workers. It also outlined the duties of the BFWDC's designated Local Rapid Response Coordinator to establish, maintain and direct the local Rapid Response Team to provide resources and services to assist laid-off workers. If approved by the AEL Committee, it will be presented at the Executive Board meeting. Todd asked who the Rapid Response Coordinator was, and Jessie stated Jasmine Sanchez.

Todd Samuel moved to approve the WorkSource System Policy (WSP)-01 Rapid Response Policy as presented, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Alignment of WIOA Program Procurement Schedule - Diana

During the February Youth, AEL, and Executive committee meetings, members discussed the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council strategy to align the procurement schedule for the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs by releasing a request for proposal and RFP in February of 2023. Currently, our WIOA programs are not on the same procurement schedule because, in PY19, we had to procure for the Dislocated Worker Program

separately when the service provider was not meeting case management expectations and performance outcomes. Administratively, this approach streamlines our resources, and it's an effective use of the board's time since board members are needed to participate on the RFP review committee. Additionally, WIOA regulations do not establish timeframes for boards to procure WIOA contracts. The AEL committee members in attendance for the February meeting supported the procurement schedule realignment. However, due to the low attendance, they wanted to allow additional members to hear our procurement strategy.

WIOA Title 1 PY22 Adult & Dislocated Worker Service Provider Extension to Career Path Services– Diana

The BFWDC staff would like to recommend extending the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker service provider contracts to Career Path Services (CPS) for another program year based on their following accomplishments:

- CPS has continued to develop new strategies throughout the program year to provide alternative ways for customers to access services and engage with program participants to assist them in attaining their goals.
- The BFWDC also received letters from the Employment Security Department recognizing CPS for their positive performance outcomes in the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs through December of 2021.
- State monitors reviewed the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Files during their PY20 annual monitoring visit and found no disallowed costs or findings. These results showed CPS's quality work when providing case management services to program participants and working with employers to meet their hiring needs.

Should this motion be approved, your recommendation will be presented to the Executive Committee.

Todd Samuel moved to approve the WIOA Title I PY22 Adult Service Provider Extension to Career Path Services as presented, seconded by Jamie Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Todd Samuel moved to approve the WIOA Title I PY22 Dislocated Worker Service Provider Extension to Career Path Services as presented, seconded by Adolfo de León. Motion carried.

EcSA Round 2 Funding Subrecipient Award to Career Path Services - Jamilet

Jamilet shared that the state will BFWDC staff recommend to the Adult/Employer Linkage Committee to award the continuation of EcSA funding to subrecipient CPS to provide direct service delivery for the timeline of April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$245,372.00. The BFWDC staff recommendation is based on the following (in no order of significance):

- CPS has demonstrated knowledge of serving rural communities and established strategic and meaningful relationships with community leaders to increase awareness of EcSA services;
- CPS program outcomes demonstrate the impact all EcSA participants served to date;
- On June 25, 2019, the BFWDC Executive Board approved the motion to Sole Source the EcSA Contract to Career Path Services (CPS) as recommended by the Adult/Employer Linkage committee following guidance from the BFWDC's Procurement and Selection of One-Stop Operators and Service Providers Policy No: 2015-34.

Todd asked if there would be a different strategy with this round of funding when providing services. Jamilet said they are looking to expand services into Benton County as the pilot EcSA Round 1 demonstrated that there is a need in other rural communities outside of Franklin county; she will report when she hears back from the state if it is a go. She also stated there will be a slight increase in training placements and enrollments; the main focus will be employment placements.

Todd Samuel moved to approve the EcSA Round 2 Funding Subrecipient Award to Career Path Services as presented, seconded by Adolfo de León. Motion carried.

Outreach to Historically Disadvantaged Communities (OHDC) Introduction – Jamilet

The BFWDC set a goal last year to request to provide a proposal a competitive proposal to the Washington State Commerce agency. We were awarded half a million dollars, and as of March, we have fully executed the contract to provide outreach to historically disadvantaged communities. Locally, we call it "Together We Rise," Our project has three different phases. The first phase is research and collaboration with our partners and system partners, including anyone in Benton and Franklin counties serving any disadvantaged population. Second, we will use strategies learned from this research and create an outreach plan to connect customers and refer to appropriate local services within WorkSource and TC Futures. The second phase is about all implementations. Third, we will mitigate a sustainable partnership plan and publish lessons-learned research results. We want to provide something meaningful not only for our system partners but also to any agency anywhere in the world that can benefit from what we did locally as far as the research and implementation.

Jamilet also mentioned that we are hiring a Communications Coordinator to serve this grant and encouraged meeting attendees to refer anyone they know that may be interested.

Liaison Report – David

David shared details of the Liaison Report:

WorkSource Columbia Basin

- We are in a seasonal dip on the employment side of things, which is historically typical.
- We are seeing UI traffic come into the center. As we get into winter layoffs, weather can impact traffic to the center. There should be an increase in traffic with the weather getting better.
- We are still down in staff-assisted job seeker as well as staff assistance services to job seekers in comparison to pre-pandemic levels.
- WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) is now offering a Grow with Google certificate pilot, a free service to customers being piloted by Employee Security Department (ESD) through AmeriCorp.

TC Futures

- The figures in this report will change to program year data (July 1-June 30) rather than calendar year (January 1-December 31) data.
- 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 92% of the total served monthly participant target and 82% employed monthly exit target.
- Business Services collaborated with a couple of hiring events:
 - Fred Meyer- 22 individuals hired
 - Total Employment and Management (TEAM)- 15 individuals hired

David explained this report is shared across our workforce system network, uploaded to the BFWDC website monthly, posted on Facebook and LinkedIn.

WorkSource Columbia Basin (WSCB) Update – Crystal

Crystal shared some of the highlights from WSCB:

- In partnership with the BFWDC, WWA, and ESD, WSCB hosted two individuals working on the WIT replacement to be able to share what WSCB's wish list is for the new system. They focused on the customer experience and staff input. This visit went well.
- WSCB Business Services team is working hard with local businesses to promote hiring and how to market open positions.

- The Equity Committee, made up of representatives from WSCB, TC Futures, and other community partners, is working on a project to serve Spanish Speaking customers better. They have developed newspaper and TV ads that will be aired via digital media with Telemundo.
- Phase two for the Equity Committee is about staff training and creating more cultural awareness and better ways to serve those from different cultures.

Todd asked if finding a WIT replacement was going better this time around than last time. Crystal said yes, they are using information from the previous process, and there is a lot of local involvement this time. David added there is an extensive amount of research being done not to repeat history. Tiffany stated that WWA has more seats at the table, and there are many accountabilities to upper leadership, and Commissioner Feek is involved as well. Signs point to a better experience this time.

Todd also asked Crystal about the difference in the customer experience pre-pandemic to now. She said she felt the customer experience was better now.

Other Business - All

Cynthia Garcia shared that the TC Futures expansion to suite A is underway. The lease has been signed, and they have begun moving in.

Todd requested to add a TC Futures Update to our agenda. Cynthia said we would add that to the agenda.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Adolfo de León, Committee Chair Date

Jessie Cardwell, Programs Coordinator Date