



SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2023 – 7:30-9:30am

Meeting held in-person at the Ruby River Hotel, 700 N Division St – Shoreline A Ballroom and via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Kevin Brockbank
Rebecca Cook (Virtual)
Doug Edmonson
Dr. Shari McMahan
Christina Vigil Gross

Toby Broemmeling
John Dickson
Dr. Wade Larson
Tina Morrison
Joel White

Kelley Charvet
Robert Duron
Luis Licea
Diane Quincy
Diana Wilhite

Chief Elected Officials Present:

Commissioner Josh Kerns
Steve MacDonald
Ron Valencia (designee)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Bosma
Lori Hunley
Nadine Woodward

Gary Ballew
O'Connor, Katy
Kimberly Watkins

Mary Crago
Derek Tyree

OTHERS PRESENT:

Beckie Sommerville
Scott Simmons

Lori Veitenheimer

Sondra Barrington

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Mattke
Bianka DeSure
Tim Robison

Mustafa Baigzad
Jeanette Facer
Mike McBride

Jessica Clayton
Liz Laubscher
Kevin Williams

Chair Christina Vigil Gross called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. with a quorum of members present via zoom and in person.

MEETING THE MISSION

*Jessica Clayton, Division Executive Development & Program
Amanda Zahara, Childcare Navigator*

Amanda talked about the experiences that she had working with families that needed help with childcare that were struggling. Amanda shared 3 testimonials from the families that received assistance.

ITEM #1 – REVIEW OF June 14th MEETING MINUTES

Christina Vigil Gross, Board Chair

A review was done of the meeting minutes from the June 14th, 2023, board meeting.

ACTION: Motion and second to approve the June 14th, 2023, meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

ITEM #2 – Reconnect2Work Initiative

Jessica Clayton, Division Executive – Programs & Development

Bianka DeSure, Program Coordinator

Bianka presented that the childcare initiative has assisted 39 families and paid \$134,013 in childcare costs as of December. Bianka presented several successes and challenges regarding the childcare initiative. SWC is helping families that do not qualify for state subsidy but still can't afford childcare in order to connect them to training and better career opportunities at family-sustaining wages.

ITEM #3 – PY23 FUNDING REPORT

Jeanette Facer, Division Executive - Finance

Since starting the new fiscal year on July 1, 2023, the SWC has obtained an additional \$6.5M in grant funding. This has been the result of staff work to craft successful proposals from competitive fund sources as well as additions to several existing grants.

Highlights include:

Washington Jobs Initiative – \$2.423M from the Washington Student Achievement Council, designed to serve the healthcare and construction industries by further developing talent pipelines into in-demand occupations. Partners include CHAS Health, Providence, Eastern State Hospital, and Community Colleges of Spokane.

Community Reinvestment Funds – \$1.35M from the WA Dept. of Commerce for a Poverty Reduction initiative that provides incentive payments to participants receiving services under our State Economic Security for All program. Individuals who are engaged and making progress in their career plan, working toward training completion, and taking steps to achieve career and self-sufficiency goals. Partners include our Spokane Workforce Consortium and the Resource Center of Spokane County.

Opioid Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant – \$879K from U.S. Department of Labor to support people in recovery with wraparound case management, peer navigation, job training and support services. Partners include Pioneer Human Services and our Spokane Workforce Consortium.

ITEM #4 – NEW MEMBER NOMINATION

Mark Mattke, CEO

Julie Orchard is the chief human resource officer at Providence. She has been a great partner on workforce initiatives in the past and brings a strong background in innovative talent development for this critical industry.

ACTION: Motion and second to nominate Julie Orchard to Spokane Workforce Council and forward to our Chief Elected Officials for appointment. Approved unanimously.

ITEM #5 – CAREER EXPLORE NW

Jason Miller- Director, Corporate Investments & Partnerships, KSPS

Jason updated the Council on how this platform has advanced since being launched in partnership with the SWC. He explained that Career Explore NW now has three toolkits. 90 Second videos featuring a professional in a regional business performing the job on site. The second piece of the toolkit is a virtual field trip in which students can take a field trip in 360 virtual environments at different job sites. The third piece of the toolkit is for students to interact with professionals through Zoom. Career Explore NW is now being used by a national platform, SchoolLinks, providing these resource to students all over the U.S. Jason also spoke about early childhood learning and using these tools for students as young as K-3 through "World of Work" and "Future Day" designed to have a positive impact on their education and decisions they ultimately make about careers.

ITEM #6 – TALENT SOLUTIONS TEAM

Kevin Williams- Division Executive – System Advancement

Sondra Barrington, Program Operator

Our Talent Solutions Team served over 667 unique employers, providing 2661 services at a value of over \$316,000 – all at no cost to businesses. Kevin explained our model for serving businesses and Sondra shared information about provisions of basic talent solutions services, including connecting businesses with labor market information and industry reports, and assistance with crafting job posting which meet current industry trends. Sondra explained how there is a tiered approach on gathering information from a business and then talent solutions tailor their response/services to what the business needs. Based on need, our team’s response can focus on talent pipeline development and placement services which include apprenticeships and internships. Sondra also spoke to the variety of different job fair events supported by the TST, e.g., the KHQ/ WorkSource job fair – the largest in Spokane County, the Access Job Fair focused on providing connections to employment for individuals with disabilities, our partnership with Thrive International to help refugees and immigrants get jobs, and our monthly and weekly events at WorkSource.

ITEM #7 – BOARD EXERCISE – BUSINESS SERVICES

Mark Mattke, CEO

Mark talked about the roles of businesses in helping our system understand the challenges and identifying solutions to talent pipeline, including to the childcare issues our working parents face. Due to time constraints, this exercise will be moved to the next meeting. The SWC will also be sending out a survey to our board members and stakeholders to get more input into our strategic planning efforts.

ITEM #8 – STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Christina Vigil Gross, SWC Chair

Christina shared the action items from the October 24, and December 1 meetings. These included accepting \$1,345,027 in Community Reinvestment Funds and \$2,423,000 Washington Job Initiative funding and authorizing \$1.18M WIOA Formula fund award to our Spokane Workforce Consortium for the balance of the current program year.

Services and Oversight committee

Robert Duron, SOC Chair

Robert will be teaming up with Kevin Williams to schedule the SOC meeting in January. All members are welcome to participate in this committee’s work.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Full Board Spokane Workforce Council Meeting will be February 7th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.