



# SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

**June 12, 2024 – 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:**

Mary Crago (Virtual)  
Derek Tyree  
Gary Ballew  
Diana Wilhite  
Christina Vigil Gross

Rebecca Cook (Virtual)  
John Dickson  
Dr. Wade Larson  
Diane Quincy  
Scott Simmons

Kelley Charvet  
Robert Duron  
Julie Orchard  
John Parker  
Patti Borchardt

### **Elected Officials Present:**

Suzanne Schmidt

Ron Valencia (designee)

Commissioner Josh Kerns

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Doug Edmonson  
Jeff Bosma  
Joel White  
Luis Licea

Kimberly Watkins  
Mayor Lisa Brown  
Toby Broemmeling  
Dr. Shari McMahan

Dr. Kevin Brockbank  
Steve MacDonald  
Lori Hunley  
Tina Morrison

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Scott Holstrom  
Tina Swannazie  
Cami Eakins  
Braden Fish  
Kate Martin  
Jen Morris

Lori Veitenheimer  
Tereance Nixon  
Kathy Hammonds  
Tracy Ballard  
Josh Monroe  
Andy Dwonch

Freda Cogger  
Stephanie Marko  
Beckie Sommerville  
Shon Fowler  
John Parker  
Kayci Loftus (Virtual)

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Mark Mattke  
Bianka DeSure  
Tim Robison  
Floyd Kimbrelle

DeeJay Harris  
Jeanette Facer  
Mike McBride  
Andi Hixson

Jessica Clayton  
Liz Laubscher  
Kevin Williams (Virtual)

*Chair Christina Vigil Gross called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. with a quorum of members present in person and via zoom.*

### **MEETING THE MISSION**

*Jessica Clayton, Division Executive Development & Program*

Tyson Risto shared his success story, highlighting the pivotal role of the Next Generation Zone in empowering young adults to pursue their passions and succeed in the workforce. Tyson got his bachelor's degree and is continuing his journey at Disney.

## **ITEM #1 – REVIEW OF April 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

*Christina Vigil Gross, Board Chair*

The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 10, 2024, board meeting.

***ACTION: Motion and second to approve the April 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.***

## **ITEM #2 – Board Business**

*Christina Vigil Gross, Board Chair*

There were several nominations of members for reappointment to the council.

- **Dr. Kevin Brockbank**, Chancellor, Community Colleges of Spokane – Postsecondary Education
- **Mary Crago**, Deputy Regional Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services – Vocational Rehabilitation
- **Christina Vigil Gross**, SPHR Market Manager, Manpower West Spokane/Inland Northwest – Business
- **Kimberly Watkins**, Sr. Rewards and Relations Partner, Gesa Credit Union – Business
- **Diana Wilhite**, Owner, Wilhite Enterprises - Business

### New Member Nomination

A candidate has submitted his nomination to join the board of the SWC and fill a current vacancy.

- **Dr. John Parker**, Superintendent, Central Valley School District – Secondary Education representative  
John has been serving in his role at CVSD since 2022 and has extensive experience in over three decades in various leadership roles in secondary education in the U.S. and abroad. His resume and application materials are attached for review

### ***ACTION: Motion and second to approve:***

- Vote to nominate Dr. Kevin Brockbank, Mary Crago, Christina Vigil Gross, Kimerly Watkins, and Diana Wilhite for reappointment to the Council for a three-year term and forward to our Chief Elected Officials.
- Vote to approve the nomination of Dr. John Parker for membership on the Spokane Workforce Council and forward to Chief Elected Officials for appointment.

### Election of Officers for PY24

The Board Chair will present candidates for nominations to serve as our Council officers for the upcoming year and open the floor for nominations.

- **Christina Vigil Gross**, Market Manager for Manpower West Spokane/Inland Northwest, has served on the Services and Oversight Committee since 2018 and the Membership Committee and as the Chair for the past year. She is nominated for the Chair role for Program Year 24 starting July 1, 2023.
- **Kimberly Watkins**, Sr. Rewards and Relations Partner, Gesa Credit Union, has served on the Council since 2021 and as Vice Chair for the past year. She is nominated to the Vice Chair role for the upcoming program year, beginning July 1, 2024.

***ACTION: Motion and second to approve elected officers.***

### PY24 SWC Meeting Calendar

Calendar of SWC meetings for the next program year.

***ACTION: Motion and second to approve meeting calendar***

## **ITEM #3 – Board Financials-SWC PY23 & PY24 Operating Budgets**

*Jeanette Facer, Division Executive Finance*

Jeanette discussed the declining federal funds and the challenges it presents to the operational budget. The importance of diversifying revenue sources to offset the cuts and maintain high service levels was emphasized. The ongoing challenge of filling funding gaps despite receiving ARPA funds was also

discussed, emphasizing the need to adjust the budget to spend additional funds. Jeanette presented the adjusted budgets for PY23 and PY24.

***ACTION: Motion and second to ratify PY23 and PY24 Budgets***

**ITEM #4 – Innovations in Secondary Education**

*John Parker, Superintendent, Central Valley School District*

John Parker discussed a program that seeks to revolutionize high school education by preparing students with college-level credentials, addressing the need for increased post-secondary completion and meeting the demands of the labor market. The program aims to keep students in their high schools, remove financial barriers, and provide opportunities for first-generation college-going individuals and families. The potential impact on enrollment and the flexibility for students to enroll in Eastern and SCC were discussed, emphasizing the program's goal to provide a well-rounded educational experience and diverse opportunities for students.

**ITEM #5 – Workforce System – Annual Progress Report**

*Kevin Williams, Division Executive System Advancement*

Kevin provided the annual progress report for the one stop system, including comprehensive, connection, affiliate, and specialized sites. Kevin discussed the specific criteria and services offered by each type of site, emphasizing the recent adjustments made in response to new state policies and Department of Labor regulations. The seamless transition and integration of the Resource Center of Spokane County (RCSC) into WorkSource Spokane were also discussed, highlighting the efforts made to ensure a smooth co-location and integration process.

**ITEM #6 – Annual Job Fair**

*Kimbrelle Floyd, SWC Program coordinator*

April 24th marked our 11th annual NonStop Local KHQ/WorkSource Job Fair and was held at the trade show halls on the Spokane Convention Center Campus. We broke attendance records and continue to see high value in hosting this large-scale in-person event to bring employers and job candidates together. This year's job fair was a huge success.

**ITEM #7 – Community Reinvestment Fund**

*Jessica Clayton, Division Executive Development & Program*

Jessica discussed the new resource from the Washington State Department of Commerce has provided the SWC with over \$2.7M to leverage and help low-income families move out of poverty with a focus on BIPOC individuals, families, and businesses being served. The funds are targeted for multiple uses, including providing incentive payments, Individual Development Accounts, and business development through support for capacity building, sustainability, hiring, retention, and staff training. Staff will offer more details on our current engagement strategies.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Full Board Spokane Workforce Council Meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup> , 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM.