

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council
 Adult & Employer Linkage Committee
 July 16, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.
 Zoom

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Staff/Partners</u>
Adolfo de León	Melanie Olson	Lori Mattson	Tiffany Scott, BFWDC
Jamie Rasmussen		Karl Dye	Diana Hamilton, BFWDC
Jennie Weber		Michael Lee	Becky Smith, BFWDC
Todd Samuel			Cynthia Garcia, BFWDC
			Jamilet Nerell, BFWDC
			Kayci Loftus, CPS
			Jasmine Smith, CPS
			Rosa Reyna, GW
			Crystal Bright, WSO
			Israel Delamora, OIC
			David Chavey-Renaud-TriDec
			Ivette Gutierrez, ESD

Call to Order

Adolfo welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Becky went through the roll call and allowed people to introduce themselves.

BFWDC COO Position - Tiffany

Tiffany shared that she had a meeting with Anthony Peterson, who was hired to be our new COO. Through that meeting, she was informed that his Director at OIC offered him their Deputy Director position. He has decided to take that offer and stay where he is. Tiffany will now take time to re-evaluate and then will communicate direction for the future regarding this opening at the BFWDC.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Minutes of the June 18, 2020, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Todd Samuel moved to approve the June 18, 2020, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by David Chavey-Renaud. Motion carried.

Program Highlights – Diana

Diana shared that a major priority right now is getting contracts completed and out to our service providers. This is especially important for the Disaster Recovery Contract as disaster relief employment activities can only be implemented upon execution of a local contract. The areas that we are focusing on within our community for this contract include things like food bank staff, contact tracing staff, child care providers so parents can go back to work, specialized sanitation workers for public spaces, and support for the homeless. The consortium plans on conducting a stakeholder mapping exercise later this month to identify everyone that needs to be brought to the table.

She shared that everyone will be receiving an e-vote regarding the Employment Recovery Grant. We received notification from the state that we will receive \$598,781 to help employment recovery due to the impacts of COVID. These funds will be used to respond to business closures and the ongoing dislocations that continue to impact our community. This contract will go from July 1, 2020, through March 31, 2022, and will serve 55 participants. We will be utilizing the sole-source option embedded in our local policy to subcontract services with Career Path Services. There will be more details in the email. Please be watching for this e-vote over the next few days.

She shared that we conducted interviews for the Programs Coordinator. We received 50 applicants. We are hoping to make an offer later today to start on August 3.

Todd asked why we are doing a Sole Source on the Employment Recovery Grant. Diana shared that this grant started on July 1. We have an extremely short turn-around time, and we know that Career Path Services has the expertise to provide these services. If we had to procure at this time, we would lose momentum in getting these dollars out to our community.

EcSA Update – Jamilet

Jamilet shared that we just completed a full year with the EcSA program. Our numbers remain low. We have changed some of the requirements on the contract around eligibility and expanding the area of service. She introduced Ivette Gutierrez. Ivette is a social policy researcher. She is in charge of focusing on the EcSA Connell model. Part of ESD's job is to explore what can be better and what can be replicated in other contracts. We are currently going through phase one of the evaluation, which includes initial interviews with WDC Staff, subrecipient frontline staff, case managers, and local partners.

Todd asked what the goal of EcSA will be in the next 3-6 months. She answered that serving a community that lacks access to technology and technology literacy has been a challenge. We are in a place that we can be innovative and cooperate with our community partners. We are hoping through targeted outreach; we can continue to provide resources to our participants. She anticipates that the numbers will increase, but slowly.

Tiffany thanked Ivette for attending.

Jamilet shared from the provided report.

Israel asked if we were able to provide computers or technology to customers to participate in the provided forums. Jamilet answered that a lot of the interaction is over the phone. For those that need technical assistance, they are working with the library and the City of Connell. Because of COVID, we can enroll customers without them having to provide documentation right now, so a lot of the intake is happening over the phone. OIC is looking at leasing or providing loaned equipment to customers.

Families Forward Washington (FFW) Updates – Jamilet

Jamilet shared that FFW will be executing a 3rd contract amendment to offset the impact of COVID-19 has had on the enrollment numbers. The deadline will be extended to December 31, 2020, to continue enrollments of 56 customers. We will continue to enroll as many as possible over this number. As of yesterday, we had 54 enrollments. This is a new model brought to our area. There have been many challenges and lessons learned. They continue to provide enrollments and virtual services. Goodwill has done a great job of providing services and meeting the customers where they are at to help. Technology continues to be a challenge. We received over 30 inquiries for the program over the last month due to a local flyer that was sent out.

Todd asked if we had 20-30 more enrollments if we have the funding to serve those? She answered that what limits the number of enrollments that we can provide is funding. It depends on what type of training the customer wants to receive.

WorkSource Update – Crystal

Crystal shared highlights out of the June operations report. We have launched a robust service delivery plan talked about last month. This is a local plan that is looking to target local job seekers to meet the local business need. Some of those activities include the virtual resource room with one on one appointments to provide basic career services. They are standing up two new workshops; an on-demand recorded workshop with a live follow-up question and answer time. Two areas they are focusing on is Job search and then connecting with training. They are also working on an outreach campaign. They have reached out to over 1700 individuals who have reached the end of their unemployment with the hopes of informing them of the available resources and create a sense of urgency.

Kayci added that they are very proud of the work of the Business Services Team. They have met a goal set back in October of reaching out to 100 new employers with a transformational visit. This is an excellent accomplishment for a team of four working in these challenging times.

Other Business:

David from TriDec shared that they have a stakeholder meeting next week to talk about the emergency grants. He has also been in contact with Rebecca about hosting a virtual job fair. Todd asked about his sense of the health of employers in our area. He shared that he primarily works with manufacturers in which there isn't a lot of hiring going on. A lot of these businesses are just beginning to ramp up again and figuring out how to conduct a safe start. They have been working with Impact Washington to provide resources to businesses.

Next Meeting: The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

DocuSigned by:
Adolfo de Leon 8/31/2020
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Meeting Chair Date

DocuSigned by:
Becky Smith 8/31/2020
B9CCD05E08634E3
Becky Smith, Office Manager Date