

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Adult & Employer Linkage Committee

October 15, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Staff/Partners</u>
Adolfo de Leon	Karl Dye	Lori Mattson	Tiffany Scott, BFWDC
Jamie Rasmussen		Michael Lee	Becky Smith, BFWDC
Jennie Weber			Cynthia Garcia, BFWDC
Melanie Olson			David Chavey-Reynaud, BFWDC
Todd Samuel			Diana Hamilton, BFWDC
			Jamilet Nerell, BFWDC
			Jessie Cardwell, BFWDC
			Crystal Bright, WSO
			Israel Delamora, OIC
			Heather Woodruff, CPS
			Jasmine Smith, CPS
			Kayci Loftus, CPS
			Rosa Reyna, GW
			Rosenda Henley, PFP

Call to Order

Melanie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Becky read through the roll call while everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Minutes of September 17, 2020, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting were provided for members to review.

Todd Samuel moved to approve September 17, 2020, Adult & Employer Linkage Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, seconded by Adolfo de Leon. Motion carried.

Election of Committee Chair(s)

Tiffany shared that at this time of year, we choose the chairs for each committee. The committee chairs also sit on the Executive Committee. Melanie and Adolfo have agreed to serve as co-chairs for the next year. Melanie asked if anyone else was interested in serving as a chair. Once approved at the committee level, this item will move to the Full Board for a vote.

Todd Samuel moved to have Melanie Olson and Adolfo de Leon serve as co-chairs for the Adult & Employer Linkage Committee for the coming year, seconded by Jennie Weber. Motion carried.

Program Highlights – Diana

Diana shared that the WDC staff participated in a food security and funding discussion on assisting local food banks when the national guard leaves in December. They are working to coordinate a transition plan to provide support at food bank operations with our Disaster Relief employment positions. They will be having discussions with the food banks to determine the type of assistance they need and the number of disaster relief positions. We want to provide a warm handoff for those services. They have learned that the AmeriCorp program has also received funding to help with food banks, and they have placed individuals throughout Washington. We are working with them to coordinate efforts to make sure we don't overlap services. The sub-recipient staff has been working to develop Disaster Relief positions at Pasco Specialty Kitchen and the Farmer's Market. These positions will provide janitorial sanitation assistance. They are also working with the ESD Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers position to assist with outreach, awareness, and provide connections to community research. A lot of work has been happening in this area. Disaster Relief positions are being identified and developed to meet the needs of our community.

She shared that Sandvik is laying off 50 workers this month. Thirty impacted workers attended the Rapid Response sessions provided on the worksite. These workers are eligible for services in the Employment Recovery Program because they are permanently laid off. So far, two individuals have asked for services.

She pointed out the Performance Summaries. These show the outreach and recruitment efforts that are happening in all programs. We now have a new sign at WorkSource that says that we continue to do virtual services. The signage includes a QR code so the customer can connect quickly.

EcSA Update – Jamilet

Jamilet shared that we are at twelve participants enrolled, which is behind the target. There have been many challenges contributing to this low number. They continue to do outreach in the area.

Todd asked what the main barriers were for this program. Jamilet shared that at the beginning of the program, SNAP was a requirement. This was a significant barrier because many fear anything that has to do with the government. Another barrier is that no one in that area has had any experience with WorkSource. We are trying to educate them about what WorkSource does, and that services are free. Another barrier is trying to virtually serve a community that doesn't have a lot of digital access. She explained that they are working on modifying the contract to add more ways to measure outcomes and a new plan of outreach and tracking.

Heather shared a few success stories from the EcSA program. These stories will be highlighted on social media to try to inspire others to take part in the program.

Todd asked what is being learned from the calls being made to those on unemployment. Heather shared that we do not see a high level of engagement. We are hearing that the lack of employment opportunities in the area has caused them not to have hope of getting a job. This is a long game. We will continue to reach out in many ways. This is a WorkSource effort as a whole.

Families Forward Washington (FFW) Updates – Jamilet

Jamilet shared that we continue to exceed the number of enrollments. We are currently at 62 participants. They are currently looking for ways to maximize the budget, especially for training. Jamilet has communicated with the FFW funding source, DCS, to discuss a potential contract modification to award Goodwill additional training dollars and avoid a surplus at the end of the grant. She will be requesting an e-vote should DCS approve the BFWDC's budget proposal to award the subrecipient. She did not have a dollar amount to share, as this is still pending approval from DCS.

Rosa shared a success story that was in the meeting packet.

WorkSource Update – Crystal

Crystal shared that there would be more information coming on the unemployment benefits outreach efforts being done by the center. Other outreach efforts include increasing awareness of the services being provided. This outreach includes the signage that was installed. There are also signs on the entryway doors that give a general glimpse of the types of services available, along with several ways to contact WorkSource. There is now have an incoming email address that goes to the Guest Resource Services Team and a QR code.

They are excited to continue building a more robust virtual service delivery menu. The team reached out to customers and asked what they are experiencing and what they would like to see. Based on that feedback, areas of opportunity were identified around group services and targeted services. A sub-group was created to address those that don't have a basic level of access to technology and need to connect by phone. The focus was on how to build equity at that basic level. They have created a job line for people to access job openings by phone. They continue to find creative ways to reach these people.

Task forces have been created to address the immediate needs of our customers. They have created a group services calendar that includes all workshops. They are using a new software called Whole Story that helps customers identify soft skills. There is a lot of work being done to stand up new workshops and group services. The local team continues to serve on the statewide workshops.

She encouraged everyone to read the report included in the meeting packet. There has been a small uptick in numbers, with the phone line volume also increasing a little bit. We are anticipating a landslide when the job search waiver goes away for unemployment.

The primary ways that people are accessing WorkSource are by phone and WorkSource.WA. With the libraries opening up, this will add more access for our customers to use computers. We will have resource documents at the libraries.

She shared that WorkSource will be hosting a virtual job fair on October 21. Seventeen businesses are participating. This job fair is open to all employers that are currently hiring and is not sector-based.

Other Business: None

Round Table: Members were given the opportunity to share what is happening in their areas of work.

Todd asked if there was anything that the committee or board members could do to help at this time. David shared that board members could help by extending our outreach on social media. He encouraged members to follow the BFWDC and WSCB and share those items. We also have a LinkedIn account. Diana also urged members to take and share the Keys to Success Survey for employers. Cynthia shared that board members could connect with employers to help obtain work experiences and OJT's. Please spread the word about what we do. Jamilet encouraged employers to participate in the Job Fairs. Melanie encouraged staff to highlight cohorts or areas that are hiring so they can pass along those needs.

Next Meeting: The next Adult & Employer Linkage Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

DocuSigned by:
Adolfo de Leon 11/19/2020
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Meeting Chair Date

DocuSigned by:
Becky Smith 11/19/2020
B9CCD05E08634E3
Becky Smith, Office Manager Date