

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 173  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

Ms. Creigh H. Agnew called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the State Investment Board in Olympia. The following Board members and officers were present:

Cindy Zehnder, Chair

Jeff Johnson, Representing Labor

Lori Province for Beth Thew, Representing Labor

Lee Newgent, Representing Labor

Creigh H. Agnew, Representing Business (Vice Chair)

Gary Chandler for Don Brunell, Representing Business

Mark Mattke, Representing Local Government

Jim Crabbe for Marty Brown, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Dale Peinecke, Employment Security Department (ESD)

Kathleen Lopp for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Mary Trimarco for Brian Bonlender, Department of Commerce

David Stillman for Kevin Quigley, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

**Vice Chair's Report**

Mr. Dale Peinecke presented the Employment Security Department's strategic plan and discussed its alignment with Governor Inslee's priorities.

Ms. Creigh H. Agnew discussed the recent meetings that she and Mr. Justin Montermini had with legislators. She urged other Board members to also attend meetings with legislators. She stated that Rep. Kathy Haigh expressed an interest in more discussion on dropout issues and more information on the Common Core State Standards. Specifically, Rep. Haigh asked if the Workforce Board could prepare a letter on its perspective on the Common Core.

**Motion 13-173-01**

Mr. Lee Newgent moved to adopt the June 27, 2013 minutes. Mr. Mark Mattke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Motion 13-173-02**

Mr. Jim Crabbe moved to adopt the 2014 meeting dates. Mr. Lee Newgent seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Motion 13-173-03**

Mr. Gary Chandler moved to review the Common Core State Standards and letter to Rep. Haigh at the November meeting. Mr. Lee Newgent seconded the motion. Ms. Creigh H. Agnew, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Newgent volunteered to work with Board staff to draft the letter for approval at the November meeting.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Eleni Papadakis provided an update on the National Governors Association (NGA). Ms. Papadakis shared that the new chair of NGA is Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin. Each year a new chair is selected and the chair picks an initiative for the year. Ms. Fallin has announced that workforce development will be her chair's initiative – specifically the intersection between workforce development and economic development.

Ms. Papadakis also announced that she has been asked to participate in the steering committee for the new ACT Foundation. ACT has been working on a concept called the National Learning Economy, bringing together all sectors touching the economy (including workforce development, higher education, and K-12). The meeting will take place in Austin, Texas on October 3-4, 2013. Washington's Workforce Board will be the only state workforce board represented at the meeting.

### **Veterans' Transitions**

Ms. Mary Forbes, Ms. Kristine Reeves, Ms. Robin Baker, Ms. Cheryl Fambles, and Ms. Marie Bruin presented on Veteran's Transitions to civilian life. Military policies now mandate certain activities and procedures for personnel in transition. Ms. Fambles shared that a new policy qualifies transitioning military personnel as dislocated workers, allowing access to Workforce Investment Act dislocated worker support. Ms. Creigh H. Agnew asked about service members' reactions to the new mandates. Ms. Baker indicated that while there may be some reluctance, participation has grown from 40 percent to approximately 90 percent of transitioning service members. Mr. Lee Newgent shared about the Helmets to Hardhats program and that it was no longer being funded. He stressed that the focus needs to be on gainful employment for veterans. The presenters indicated that a subgroup is looking into funding for Helmets to Hardhats. Ms. Lori Province mentioned that 10 percent of apprentices are veterans.

### **Adult Basic Education**

Mr. Jon Kerr provided an overview of Adult Basic Education (ABE), focusing on innovative programs. Ms. Karen Johnson of Edmonds Community College talked about the High School 21+ Program. This program allows for students that have not finished their high school education to enter anywhere in the state. The program began this year and will have the first graduates in June 2014. Ms. Sandy Cheek of Big Bend Community College shared an experience about working with Lamb Weston, a potato plant in Moses Lake. Lamb Weston has a lot of English as a Second Language (ESL) workers, and was excited to take part in "I-BEST at Work." Ms. Cindy Zehnder indicated that the challenge is that only a small population is being reached, and that funding isn't likely to increase over time, and questioned what other options may exist for expansion besides adding money. Mr. Kerr indicated that the goal is to incorporate the innovations into the standard way of doing business. Ms. Zehnder announced that the Board will review the ABE State Plan at the November meeting.

## **Workforce Investment Act Incentive Policy**

Mr. Bryan Wilson presented the Workforce Investment Act Incentive Policy to reward Workforce Development Councils that had exceeded their performance targets. Mr. Wilson pointed out that every area had exceeded an average of 100 percent of its targets. The Board asked that a letter be sent to legislators sharing the good news.

### **Motion 13-173-04**

Mr. Lee Newgent motioned to approve the Workforce Investment Act Incentive Policy. Mr. Gary Chandler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Results Washington**

Staff from Results Washington presented an overview of the Governor's Results Washington initiative. Results Washington establishes goals and performance measures for the Inslee Administration. Mr. Mark Mattke asked what data systems are being used for the measures. Ms. Kathleen Lopp asked about the timing of the initiative. Mr. David Stillman wondered about how staff will see themselves contributing to the goals, outside of the goals directly related to their agency. Mr. Jeff Johnson suggested that there should be measures of the employment and earnings results for education programs. Ms. Cindy Zehnder emphasized that this is an emphatic recommendation from the Board.

## **Disadvantaged Populations Workgroup**

Mr. David Stillman provided an overview of the Disadvantaged Populations Workgroup that is working on the *High Skills, High Wages* strategy of blending resources and services for disadvantaged populations. The workgroup began by first defining disadvantaged populations, and then focusing in on a specific group of individuals. The workgroup selected youth ages 16-24. Mr. Mark Mattke expressed concern that the workgroup might be duplicating what Workforce Development Councils currently do. Ms. Eleni Papadakis explained that although there had been a lot of local efforts to bring different resources together, nothing has gotten to scale and key ingredients have been missing. For example, Navigator pilots have proven to be incredibly successful, but very few partnerships have been able to sustain them. Ms. Cindy Zehnder added that local coordination efforts have not been linked to the state level. Mr. Jim Crabbe emphasized the need for sustainable resources.

## **Work-Integrated Learning**

Mr. Justin Montermini provided an overview of previous initiatives on work-integrated learning. Mr. Mattke expressed his support for work-integrated learning. Ms. Kathleen Lopp indicated that in the K-12 system, the terms used are "work-based" and "work-site" learning. Mr. Jim Crabbe shared that the community and technical colleges are gathering data on the extent of work-integrated learning at the colleges. Ms. Cindy Zehnder indicated that the Board needs to get a perspective on the current universe of work-integrated learning and have a better understanding of what is currently happening. Mr. Gary Chandler also emphasized the need for more information on what is going on now. The Board agreed that more information on current activities is needed and a common understanding of terms and definitions will be necessary in order to do that.

Mr. Crabbe and Ms. Lopp questioned who is the right local broker between employers and educators, and that the right answer may vary from one area to another. Rep. Larry Seaquist spoke in support of

work-integrated learning and suggested that “Community in Schools” may be an appropriate broker at the local level. He would like to have a proposal for the next session of the Legislature. Ms. Eleni Papadakis shared her efforts to seek private foundation resources to support work-integrated learning. Ms. Zehnder indicated that the Board should work with Rep. Seaquist to explore possible legislation.

### **Long-Term Unemployed**

Mr. Tim Probst presented four options for serving the long-term unemployed: “Platform to Employment,” empowering local initiatives, business and labor outreach, and an internship and volunteer model based on AmeriCorps. Mr. Steve Frazier suggested asking the Workforce Development Councils for ideas, especially what is working that could be enhanced. Mr. Jeff Johnson indicated interest in the AmeriCorps model, also public works projects. Several Board members expressed interest in exploring a strategy of partial public subsidy of wages.

### **Private Vocational Schools Act: Proposed Agency Request Legislation**

Ms. Nova Gattman presented the proposed agency request legislation to amend the Private Vocational Schools Act. The proposed bill provides increased consumer protection for students attending private vocational schools and helps ensure the quality and reputation of the private vocational school sector. Mr. David Stillman asked if it would be possible for the Workforce Board to let other agencies know about schools with student complaints. Ms. Gena Wikstrom expressed concern about the additional 157 schools that the new legislation would impact. Mr. Jeff Johnson emphasized the importance of having real accountability for the training received by injured workers funded by the Department of Labor and Industries. Board staff agreed to work with Ms. Wikstrom to address her concerns, and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

### **Motion 13-173-05**

Ms. Lori Province moved to proceed with the agency request legislation with more information to be presented to the Board at the November meeting. Mr. Jeff Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Board meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.