



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Unified/Combined Plan Task Force Update

May 28, 2015

David Stillman, DSHS, Chair

- The Unified/Combined Plan Task Force has held three meetings: April 23, May 7, and May 21, 2015. The meetings have been well attended with representations from: DSHS (ESA, CSD, DVR, AL TSA), SBCTC (Colleges, Workforce Development, and WorkFirst), Commerce, ESD, OSPI, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), local Workforce Development Councils, and local workforce development partners, and interested parties.
- Meetings have included:
 - Workforce Board Executive Director Eleni Papadakis provided an exceptionally helpful overview of the basics of what it means to explore the choice between a unified and combined state plan. She shared a PowerPoint that is accessible on the website.
 - The overview highlighted the need for us all (as a Task Force) to understand more fully each area's "lines of business" and service delivery responsibilities. We also agreed it would be helpful to know more about the demographics of the populations we serve if we want to make any recommendations beyond the four Core WIOA programs (Youth, Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs; Basic Education for Adults; Wagner-Peyser; and Vocational Rehabilitation), and spent the second meeting focusing on this information.
 - Workforce Board WIOA Program Specialist Terri Colbert presented more detail regarding process associated with both Unified and Combined Plans; so that the Task Force participants could begin to articulate their preferred position as part of finalizing recommendations to the Steering Committee.
 - Participants discussed their perspectives regarding the "pros and cons" of both Unified and Combined plans and expressed organizational or service sector preference. This exercise helped surface the preferences of participants – program area by program area. This information will be used to craft initial recommendations for Task Force review, approval, and subsequent submission to the Steering Committee.
- During its June meetings, the Task Force will further develop and craft its recommendations for the Steering Committee. It is anticipated that the recommendation will be forwarded to the Steering Committee the week of July 6, 2015.