

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MEETING NO. 185  
March 12, 2015**

**WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT UPDATE**

The Board has received presentations on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) at each of the last four meetings. In September, Scott Cheney and Workforce Board staff presented the basics of the Act, setting the stage for the work ahead. In October, the Board considered adoption of a draft implementation timeline, a committee structure to do the work, and key work areas for each of the proposed eight committees. While the Board adopted the basic structure for WIOA planning, staff was directed to develop the work areas around a Steering Committee and three subcommittees, rather than eight.

In November, the Governor officially named the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board as the State Workforce Board under WIOA. At the meeting, the Board adopted a revised committee structure, paring the number of committees from eight to four, each with co-chairs representing business and labor. The Board adopted the implementation timeline as well.

The Steering Committee's first opportunity to meet was in early January. They set their meeting schedule for the first half of 2015 and prioritized the critical work ahead. The Steering Committee voted to send a recommendation to the Workforce Board asking the Governor to provide Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) with initial designation for the 12 Workforce Development Areas. This enabled the Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) to begin local planning. At the January 29, 2015 Workforce Board meeting, the Board passed the Steering Committee's recommendation and also acted to recommend that the composition of WDCs be retained up to June 30, 2016. A letter has been drafted to the Governor.

Following the January meeting, all of the subcommittees met at least once, and then reported their progress at a February 17 Steering Committee meeting.

Because the work areas are diverse, and in some instances require quick turnaround, committees have the option of assigning some work to a task force, recruited to focus on one or more details. This method enables broad stakeholder participation, and allows involvement by those who have limited time but valuable expertise to devote to the process. The task force may meet two or three times and then move a recommendation forward. The Steering Committee has task forces beginning to work on three areas:

1. OneStop Certification and One Stop Assessment Criteria
2. Funding Distribution for WIOA Title I
3. Combined Plan vs. Unified Plan Guidance for WDCs and Local Partners

The Educational and Career Pathways through Integrated Service Delivery subcommittee has two task forces to address:

1. Adult Populations with Barriers to Employment
2. WIOA's Youth Services Provisions

As each subcommittee's work moves forward, recommendations will be brought before the Steering Committee. Upon adoption of these recommendations, they will be brought before the Board for discussion and approval when appropriate.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for March 24.

**Board Action:** No action requested.