

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 153  
March 10, 2011**

Ms. Cindy Zehnder called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the Washington State Investment Board, Olympia. The following Board members and officers were present:

Cindy Zehnder, Chair

Andres Aguirre for Susan Dreyfus, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)  
Beth Thew, Representing Labor  
Creigh H. Agnew, Representing Business  
Daniel Malarkey for Rogers Weed, Department of Commerce  
Dixie Simmons for Charlie Earl, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)  
Jeff Johnson, Representing Labor  
Betty Klattenhoff for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)  
Kathleen Lopp for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)  
Lutz Ziob, Representing Business  
Mark Mattke, Representing Local Government  
Mike Hudson, Representing Business  
Paul Trause, Employment Security Department (ESD)

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

**Chair's Report**

Ms. Cindy Zehnder welcomed the Workforce Board and guests to the Washington State Investment Board. Introductions were made. Ms. Zehnder announced Mr. Mike Hudson's newly appointed role as the 2012 Chair of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Council. She also recognized the Seattle King County Workforce Development Council as one of the top four Workforce Development Councils in the nation and shared that she had attended their meeting. She announced that Ms. Eleni Papadakis was interviewed by KING 5 regarding young adults struggling in this recession. She invited the members of the board to attend the Best Practices Award ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda Reception Room on March 24. Ms. Zehnder also announced the new Labor member Mr. Lee Newgent serving on the board, and shared that he was also a member of the Seattle King County Workforce Development Council. Ms. Zehnder mentioned the one-day "Retooling" event that will be held October 6, 2011.

**Motion 11-153-01**

Mr. Mike Hudson moved to adopt the January 27, 2011 minutes. Ms. Beth Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed with corrections.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Eleni Papadakis introduced Mr. Jon Agnone as the new Research Investigator for the Workforce Board. Ms. Papadakis highlighted her recent presentations. She mentioned the "brown folder" supplemental items. She mentioned the rural conference occurring on March 14-18, 2011.

## **Vice Chair's Report**

Ms. Beth Thew thanked Ms. Zehnder for recommending she attend the National Governor's State Chairs meeting in Washington, D.C. to represent the Workforce Board. She highlighted the trip by confirming that Washington is ahead of other states regarding Workforce Development and that Washington is fortunate because we have a Workforce Board and director well known and respected nationally by our peers. She recommended bringing out the keynote speaker from the conference, Mr. Harry Holzer, for the Retooling Conference in October. She also mentioned the meeting with Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell while in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Papadakis explained the background on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report. Mr. Mike Hudson agreed to send Ms. Creigh Agnew the GAO report.

## **Congressional Update**

Mr. Scott Cheney, Staff Director, Senate HELP subcommittee on Employment & Workplace Safety and Ms. Sarah Bolton, Legislative Assistant for Senator Patty Murray provided insight regarding workforce training and the budget. Mr. Cheney shared the challenges behind Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding in HR1 and that he anticipated some compromise. He expects a public discussion draft for WIA reauthorization by the end of March or early April. He also mentioned the top two priorities for the Senate include WIA and ESEA reauthorization. Mr. Mark Mattke asked about Youth funding and its future. Mr. Cheney indicated that the local boards need to prepare for a possible period of "lack of funding." Ms. Eleni Papadakis asked about the federal-state relationship. Mr. Cheney acknowledged that the House and some Senate members are in favor of reduced federal involvement in education and training. Ms. Bolton also spoke about the potential cut to Carl Perkins funding.

## **Retooling Washington's Workforce**

Workforce Development Council directors, Workforce Board and Employment Security Department staff presented the materials and updated the efforts for Retooling Washington's Workforce. Ms. Amy Leneker presented the Unemployment Insurance (UI) data. Ms. Cindy Zehnder inquired about the 4,000 individuals exhausting UI benefits per month. Ms. Leneker concurred it was an alarming, but accurate number. Ms. Leneker demonstrated the UI exhaustees information that can be found on the Workforce Board's website. Ms. Zehnder asked that we share this information with the Legislature as well. Ms. Beth Thew expressed concern about wages of returning workers. Mr. Mike Hudson inquired about people with disabilities. Ms. Zehnder asked about a status report on the Microsoft e-Learning efforts. Mr. Lutz Ziob shared the work that Microsoft is doing in North Carolina high schools. He also shared that a meeting had taken place with OSPI Superintendent Randy Dorn and Microsoft to introduce Microsoft materials into every classroom in Washington. He mentioned joint marketing efforts with Microsoft and WorkSource. Mr. Hudson and Ms. Thew have registered for the Microsoft e-Learning classes.

Mr. Bryan Wilson presented the materials for On-the-Job and Direct Connect Training. Ms. Dixie Simmons offered to provide a one-page paper on the Individualized Certificate Programs that the State

Board for Community and Technical Colleges offers. Ms. Melinda Nichols shared that British Columbia has some best practices in apprenticeships. Ms. Eleni Papadakis mentioned using the skills centers for training centers for adults. Mr. Wilson shared the Trade Development Assistance competitive grant solicitation and said Washington has five proposals under development to compete for these funds.

Ms. Marlena Sessions from the Seattle King County WDC, Mr. Steve Frazier from Olympic WDC and Mr. Mark Mattke from Spokane Area WDC presented the material for the update on Retooling Washington's Workforce from their regions. Mr. Jeff Johnson asked about current data regarding the RISE program in Snohomish County. Ms. Zehnder asked that there be identification of best practices at the October 6 event. Mr. Ziob asked for more in-depth research on the employer side of this matter. Mr. Paul Trause mentioned Mr. Michael Porter's work on economic clusters and that the Board should have this information presented at a future meeting.

### **Carl Perkins: Secondary/Postsecondary Funding Split**

Ms. Terri Colbert, Ms. Patricia McKeown, Mr. Gerald Pumphrey, Ms. Susan Dixon and Mr. Gerry Ringwood presented the materials in Tab 3. The Carl D. Perkins Act provides approximately \$17.8 million of Basic Grant funds, which are distributed to the local level for required and permissive local uses of funds. The Board determines the relative portion of funds provided to the secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs.

On September 26, 2007 the Workforce Board voted to retain the 44/56 secondary to postsecondary funding split. The Perkins Secondary/Postsecondary funding splits in other states vary.

Ms. Thew asked about distributions to school districts and the coordination between Carl Perkins and Workforce Investment Act at the local level. She also asked about best practices in any of the schools. Mr. Ringwood shared best practices working with the local fire department in conjunction with a fire fighter course. Ms. Eleni Papadakis suggested members share their questions and concerns with Workforce Board staff so they can address them at the May meeting.

### **Green Jobs**

Ms. Joyce Brake and Ms. Barbara Hins-Turner presented the materials for Tab 4. In 2009, the Legislature passed House Bill 2227, the Evergreen Jobs Act. The bill established the Evergreen Jobs Leadership Team that is co-chaired by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and the Department of Commerce. Ms. Brake briefed the board on legislation regarding green jobs. Ms. Zehnder inquired about the "Green Jobs" and Forestry jobs. Mr. Daniel Malarkey identified the top priorities for the workgroup. Mr. Mark Mattke asked about the smart grid project.

### **Private Career Colleges**

Ms. Gena Wikstrom, Executive Director of the Northwest Career Colleges Federation presented on the status of private proprietary schools and colleges in Washington. She was joined by Christine Cote, Perry Technical College, Yakima; John Paul Johnston, Divers Institute, Seattle; and Lee Brunk, Commercial Drivers Services, Federal Way. They presented on financial aid availability and other contemporary topics that impact the private career college sector, as well as general information about the roles and functions of private providers in the broader postsecondary system. Ms. Cindy Zehnder inquired on the cost of vocational colleges. Mr. Mike Hudson commented on the value of the Lifelong Learning Account (LiLA) program and private vocational colleges.

## **Gap Analysis of Mid-Level Supply and Demand**

Mr. Bryan Wilson and Mr. Dave Pavelchek presented the materials for Tab 6. Mr. Pavelchek provided the Board with a presentation that analyzes the aggregate—or overall—supply and demand, across all mid-level occupations that require more than a year, but less than four years of postsecondary education or training.

## **Legislative Update**

Ms. Joyce Brake, Ms. Carolyn McKinnon and Mr. Wes Pruitt presented the materials for Tab 7. The 2011 Legislative Session commenced on January 10, and is scheduled to adjourn on April 24, 2011.

During the current legislative session, the Workforce Board staff is monitoring and providing input on legislation and budget proposals that match the priorities identified in *High Skills, High Wages* and the budget motion passed by the Board in January. Board staff have met this session with members of workforce-related committees to provide a briefing on the Board's priority issues related to their respective committees.

Adjourned 3:35 p.m.