

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 150  
September 23, 2010**

Ms. Cindy Zehnder called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. at the Department of Commerce. The following Board members and officers were present:

Cindy Zehnder, Chair

Creigh Agnew, Business Representative  
Charlie Earl, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)  
Mike Hudson, Business Representative  
Troy Hutson for Susan Dreyfus, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)  
Andreas Aquirre for Susan Dreyfus, (DSHS)  
Paul Trause, Employment Security Department (ESD)  
Kathleen Lopp for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)  
Mark Mattke, Local Government Representative  
Daniel Malarkey for Rogers Weed, Department of Commerce  
Beth Thew, Labor Representative  
Lutz Ziob, Business Representative

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

**Chair's Report**

Ms. Zehnder welcomed the Workforce Board and guests to the Department of Commerce's new location. Introductions were made. Ms. Zehnder referred to the "Retooling Washington's Workforce Initiative" and acknowledged the broad support it had received.

**Motion 10-150-01**

Mr. Mike Hudson moved to adopt the June 24, 2010 minutes. Ms. Kathleen Lopp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Motion 10-150-02**

Ms. Creigh H. Agnew moved to adopt the July 28-29, 2010 minutes. Ms. Kathleen Lopp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Motion 10-150-03**

Ms. Creigh H. Agnew moved to adopt the 2011 Board Meeting Schedule. Ms. Beth Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Eleni Papadakis announced she and Israel Mendoza from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges were appointed to the advisory committee of the Center for Law and Social Policy's new Center for Postsecondary Success. She also mentioned the continuing work on the Rwanda Partnership Initiative. Mr. Charlie Earl announced to the Board that he and Steve Hansen from Renton Technical College would be attending the White House Summit on October 5, 2010. Ms. Papadakis mentioned the Governor's approval of the \$1.5 million Workforce Investment Act 10 Percent training fund. She also shared an update on the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship reduction, Skills USA, and the latest work of the State Board of Education on graduation requirements.

Ms. Papadakis announced the release of the new "*Where Are You Going*" career guide. She also announced that the Career Bridge website had won a Council of State Governments Innovation Award. Ms. Beth Thew wanted to make sure that the Governor's Office was notified of the award. Mr. Paul Trause mentioned the Microsoft training opportunities and the rising dilemma of individuals exhausting their Unemployment Benefits.

## **Update on Work Plan for "Retooling Washington's Workforce"**

Mr. Bryan Wilson and Mr. Tim Sweeney presented the material on "Retooling Washington's Workforce." Ms. Cindy Zehnder suggested identifying 3-4 major goals with strategies identified in the required forms that would be provided to attendees at the October 5, 2010 meeting. She explained what the agenda would look like. The morning would be dedicated to groups identifying business plans that would be presented and discussed in the afternoon. She also explained that in order to implement this process there would have to be regular check-ins and status reports throughout the year. Mr. Mark Mattke emphasized that the performance metrics would need to change. Mr. Paul Trause expressed the need to organize the goals based on the dual customers and not by practitioner designations. Mr. Charlie Earl suggested the Board advocate for the Job Skills Program and customized training during these economic times. Ms. Beth Thew suggested Industry Skills Panels as a good model.

## **Operating Agency Budget Requests for 2011-2013 (Action)**

Mr. Wes Pruitt and Ms. Madeleine Thompson presented the materials for Tab 2. The operating agencies in the workforce development system annually prepare policy and budget proposals for consideration by the Governor and the Legislature. Any budget proposals are formally analyzed and acted on by the Board each year, with recommendations sent to the Governor and Legislature.

At this summer's retreat, the Board also decided to utilize the Retooling Washington themes as a filter for prioritizing the operating agencies' budget requests.

Ms. Kathleen Lopp presented the budget considerations for OSPI and the request for STEM and related efforts for innovation high schools. Ms. Creigh H. Agnew asked whether these projects would assist in improving the state's opportunity for a Race to the Top Grant. Mr. Trause presented the budget considerations for ESD and mentioned no budget additions, but mentioned they do need legislation for Unemployment Insurance (UI) modernization. He also mentioned the UI trust fund was very healthy. Mr. Earl presented the budget for the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and mentioned the value of having the Workforce Board's support on legislative requests. Ms. Doris Barret, Nurse Delegation Program Manager for Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) addressed the

request for DSHS budget neutral legislation to allow nursing delegation for home health care aides. She also asked the Board for a letter of support.

### **Workforce Board Biennial Budget 2011-2013 (Action)**

Mr. Walt Wong presented the material in Tab 3. The 2011-2013 Operating Budget Instructions require agencies to submit their budget requests for the coming biennium that include proposed two-year budgets with accompanying activity inventories and any monetary decision packages to the Office of Financial Management (OFM). The budget requests are supported by agency strategic plans. In June, the Board adopted the agency's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, containing goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures. The Board will review and adopt the agency budget request for the coming biennium that supports the strategic plan.

The agency is not requesting any additional funding to carry out its existing core functions and activities. The goal is to implement the strategic plan with existing resources. As a result, the 2011-2013 budget identifies maintenance level funding at a little over \$66 million (\$62.7 million in GF-Federal; \$3.0 million in GF-State; and \$.5 million in GF-Other). Almost all of the GF-Federal funds are pass-through dollars to external parties. Of the total \$66 million, the agency retains about 8.5 percent for internal program operations. The agency is not requesting any new funding with this submittal. Ms. Cindy Zehnder mentioned that the retooling efforts would require staff deployment. Ms. Creigh H. Agnew asked about the impact of a possible 10 percent budget reduction. Ms. Beth Thew inquired about the Tuition Recovery Trust Fund.

### **Motion 10-150-04**

Mr. Charlie Earl moved that the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board approves the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget and directs that the resulting documents be placed in the required format and submitted to the Office of Financial Management. Mr. Mike Hudson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Special Board and audience announcements**

Mr. Steve Lindstrom from the Northwest Career Colleges Federation provided an update on the recent federal rule on "gainful employment", and how it will impact private career colleges. Ms. Creigh H. Agnew announced her recent appointment in conjunction with the Slade Gorton International Policy Center.

### **Eligible Training Provider List**

Ms. Karen Pyle presented the materials for Tab 4. The Board sets the criteria used to determine which programs are eligible to provide training funded by Workforce Investment Act Title I-B Individual Training Accounts. The same criteria are used to determine eligibility to train dislocated workers receiving additional unemployment insurance benefits under the state's Training Benefits program. A committee of the Board met and developed recommendations for next year's criteria.

The committee recommends no major changes to the standards at this time. Instead, the committee recommends maintaining the standards by adjusting the earnings criteria to reflect the updated federal poverty guidelines, and by adjusting the hourly wage criteria to account for inflation. Mr. Rick Bender wanted assurance that wages indeed exceed poverty levels. Ms. Pyle agreed to include this as part of the

motion for the November meeting. Ms. Beth Thew contemplated whether a 50 percent employment rate was realistic during these difficult times. Ms. Melinda Nichols from Labor and Industries Apprenticeship program asked whether increasing completion rates and other measures disproportionately impact women and minorities. Ms. Beth Thew inquired about current data on non-completers. Mr. Lutz Ziob inquired on supply of training versus demand. Mr. Bryan Wilson shared that this information would be available at a future Board meeting.

### **Workforce Training Results continued from previous Board meeting**

Mr. Dave Pavelchek presented the materials for Tab 5. This is an update of the findings of the *Workforce Training Results* report on the outcomes of program participants exiting during the 2007-2008 year. This update includes data on the outcomes of Secondary Career and Technical Education, which was not available at the time of the July meeting.

These participant results are from the period starting before the recession and continuing into its early stages.

Results for WorkFirst program participants are still in process, but may be available at the next meeting.

### **Employer Survey Results**

Mr. Dave Pavelchek presented the material for Tab 7. The Board recently completed its periodic survey of Washington employers regarding workforce training needs and practices. Mr. Pavelchek presented a set of charts and tables showing initial results that will be given further review before publication.

The survey was administered during the spring & summer of 2010. The Association of Washington Business and the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives assisted in encouraging employers to respond. The survey used a random sample, stratified by size, area and industry. Mr. Lutz Ziob suggested that with the recession we need a “re-set” and that we not revert back to business as usual after the recession. Ms. Cindy Zehnder suggested members offer Mr. Pavelchek questions for follow up.

### **WorkFirst Re-Examination**

Mr. Troy Hutson presented the material for Tab 6. With the signing of House Bill 3141 on April 1, 2010, the Governor directed the WorkFirst Subcabinet to “examine best practices to meet the needs of WorkFirst families to obtain employment and achieve family self-sufficiency, to provide a report by December 2010, and plan to implement best practices that are sustainable.” Mr. Hutson mentioned having concerns regarding the budget shortfall and the impact on recipients.

### **State Energy Plan**

Mr. Daniel Malarkey presented the materials on the State Energy Plan. He indicated that the state is making the I-5 corridor accessible for electric cars. Also, he mentioned Washington is fourth in the country for wind energy. Mr. Lutz Ziob raised the issue of the omission of workforce training from the plan. Mr. Malarkey acknowledged the need for more recognition of workforce training. Ms. Cindy Zehnder suggested adding a recommendation on workforce training. Mr. Ziob reiterated that a skilled workforce should be part of the strategy.

Adjourned 3:30 p.m.