

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board Executive Director's Report

Meeting No. 233
January 29, 2020

1. 360 Board Review Consultant Chosen

Following the Board's November discussion on a 360-degree review of the Workforce Board's statutory authority and mandates, a competitive request for proposals process was organized by Board staff and a successful bidder was chosen by Board Chair Perry England and the Office of the Governor. We're excited to announce a familiar face to our Board was the successful applicant: Kelly Johnston of Clarity Consulting, who facilitated the Board discussion on vision, goals, and values in November. Kelly will partner with Tom Moore of consulting firm, Mass Ingenuity, in order to complete the work in a short timeframe. Tom and Kelly will have a place on each Workforce Board meeting agenda to discuss the design, implementation, and progress of the evaluation, as well as to gather feedback on important issues highlighted through their research. Working with the full Board, Kelly and Tom will facilitate the development of recommendations on the Board's leadership role in the continuous improvement of the state's workforce development system.

2. Partnership with the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives (WCCE)

The Workforce Board has completed a contract with the WCCE to host and facilitate community engagement forums around the state. Through this new partnership, the WCCE will support our TAP 2020 planning process by increasing engagement with local business leaders, host a roadshow of the *Talent and Prosperity for All* draft plan, and solicit comments on its update from a wide range of business-community voices. These engagement sessions are meant to be both a listening opportunity and a wide-ranging conversation about how industry is changing rapidly, with an eye to identifying barriers that keep the state system from being a better resource for all. Dates, locations, and times are being organized right now and will be announced as soon as possible. We're excited to deepen this partnership and engage the business community in a targeted way!

4. Behavioral Health Workforce

In partnership with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, our staff completed the first phase of our latest behavioral health workforce project, which culminated in the publication of the [Phase I Report and Recommendations](#) to the Legislature and Governor. This project was funded by budget proviso in the 2019 Legislative Session. Our Behavioral Health Policy Analyst, Julia O'Connor, is leading this work, in close consultation with Nova, who previously staffed health workforce issues for the Board. The report can be found at: <http://bit.ly/BHworkforce>

This first phase focused on two barriers faced by the behavioral health workforce, licensing reciprocity and background checks, and included five actionable policy recommendations. Phase II began earlier this month, and will expand the workgroup's inquiry to include all five barriers identified in the proviso language: reimbursement and incentives for the supervision of interns and trainees; supervision requirements; competency-based training; licensing reciprocity; and background checks. As with the initial report, Phase II will culminate with a report and recommendations to the Legislature and Governor by December 1st of this year.

5. Future of Work Report Released

The Future of Work Task Force has released its report to the Governor and Legislature. The tri-partite task force reviewed mounds of research, reports, and articles, gathered input from hundreds of stakeholders across the state, and interviewed numerous futurists and policymakers from around the world. The Task Force deliberated during eight public meetings over a 15-month timeframe to come to consensus on priorities for action and further exploration if all our communities, businesses, and workers are to prosper through technological upheaval. The report discusses five broad policy areas and offers 17 specific recommendations. The full report can be found at: <http://bit.ly/wtb2019futureofwork>

6. Congressional Presentation of the Future of Work Report

We had a tremendous opportunity last month to showcase the Future of Work Task Force report on the national stage. We were invited to share our findings to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment. Nova represented the Board at this hearing, along with Seth Harris, Former Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor; James Paretti, Treasurer of the Emma Coalition; and Brad Markell, Executive Director of the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute. Nova provided a five minute opening statement to the committee, and then joined the other panelists in answering questions from committee members, including responding to Representative Pramila Jayapal from our state's 7th Congressional District. Representative Jayapal also introduced Nova to the Committee prior to her opening statement.

Nova's written testimony, and a recording of the full hearing, can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/WTBcongressionalTestimony>

7. Snohomish County Workforce System Redesign

Staff from the Snohomish County Executive's Office met with staff from the Governor's Office, the state's Employment Security Department (ESD), and the Workforce Board to express a desire to reconfigure workforce services within their local workforce development area to foster tighter alignment with other Snohomish County services. County Executive Dave Sommers has prioritized improved employment outcomes for the region, and is taking a holistic approach to developing new service models. Following a period of transition this spring, the county itself is expected to take on the fiscal agent responsibilities for WIOA funds, and a new WIOA local board will be appointed before the end of the program year this summer. Workforce Snohomish will continue to operate as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit serving the Snohomish County community. Staff from the state's Workforce Board, ESD, and the federal Department of Labor have met repeatedly with staff from both Snohomish County and Workforce Snohomish to offer guidance during the transition process, including with the designation of a new WIOA-compliant local Board. An interagency workgroup focused on providing support during the transition process has been convened by ESD and will continue to serve as a primary point of contact for partners in Snohomish County as the transition proceeds.

We want to express our gratitude to Workforce Snohomish CEO, Erin Monroe, and her talented staff, who were strongly engaged partners in the development and implementation of TAP. Erin, who has stepped down from her CEO role in order to facilitate the transition to the county-led structure, was always willing to bring on new partners and test new service models—always working towards better performance outcomes for business and jobseeker customers.

8. ESD Convenes Working Group on Ongoing Boeing 737-MAX Displacements

Much of the Puget Sound region has closely followed the ongoing odyssey to return Boeing's 737-MAX jet to service. With the recent news that the main 737-MAX production facility in Renton would temporarily suspend production and that workers would be reassigned to other facilities around Puget Sound (and some further afield, as far as southern California), a working group, led by ESD, has been convened to coordinate support services and messaging as the production shutdown continues. The working group is meeting approximately weekly to share out updates and information from the ground related to the displacement of workers and the ripple-effects, including how the work stoppage is affecting businesses in the surrounding communities.

9. Credential Advisory Committee Forms

We are pleased to have contracted with Rich Rhodes (Future of Work Task Force member) to coordinate the next stage of Washington's credential transparency initiative. Rich's work includes garnering the support of over 300 educational institutions to translate and upload about 3,800 programs from Career Bridge to the Credential Engine Registry. Rich will also convene a Credential Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from across the higher education spectrum and secondary CTE. The committee will use the Career Bridge pilot as a learning laboratory and help shape recommendations on how the state can move towards full credential transparency in the near future.