

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

May 25, 2022, | 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Meeting No. 256

Click Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99892451717?pwd=NEJwQlIXTIRWSUNySXI2TIBLc3AwQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 9245 1717 | Password: 780404

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|------------|---|----------|
| 9:30 a.m. | Call to Order | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions • Thank You Jan Yoshiwara | |
| 9:55 a.m. | Consent Agenda (Action) | 1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of April 2022 Meeting Minutes | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Multiple Pathways to Economic Success for In-School Youth Panel | 2 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Reykdal, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction • Board Q&A and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 15 Minute Break • Laura DiZazzo & Cooper Mets, Northwest Education Access • Dawn Rains, Treehouse & Samie Iverson, Building Changes • WDC Spotlight Cindy Maib-Robinson, People For People • Board Q&A and Discussion | |
| 12:30 p.m. | Workforce Innovation Fund Panel | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cami Feek, Commissioner, Employment Security Department | |
| 12:45 p.m. | Lunch | |
| 1:15 p.m. | Workforce Innovation Fund Panel (Continued) | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Martinez, South Central Workforce Council • Board Q/A & Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 10 Minute Break • WIOA Title 1 Statewide Programs – Overview & Funding Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Babs Roberts – DSHS, Economic Services Administration ◦ Troy Goracke – SBCTC, Basic Education for Adults • Board Q/A & Discussion | |
| 3:40 p.m. | Summary, Directions, and Next Steps | |
| 3:50 p.m. | Local Plan Approval Authority (Action) | 3 |
| 3:55 p.m. | Executive Director Report | 4 |
| 4:00 p.m. | Adjourn | |

Tab 1

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 255

April 20, 2022

Board Members Present:

Larry Brown, Co-Chair
Gary Chandler, Co-Chair
Lee Anne Caylor, Representing Business
Jane Hopkins, Representing Labor
Wade Larson, Representing Business
Todd Mitchell, Representing Labor
Kairie Pierce, Representing Labor
Cami Feek, Employment Security Department (ESD)
Rebecca Wallace for Chris Reykdal, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Jan Yoshiwara, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Mark Mattke, Representing Local Government
Jilma Meneses, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
Chris Alejano, Representing Underserved Populations
Lisa Brown, Department of Commerce

Call to Order

Co-Chairs Mr. Gary Chandler and Mr. Larry Brown called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. on a virtual meeting using Zoom. Mr. Brown introduced the Board's newest members representing labor, Mr. Todd Mitchell and Ms. Kairie Pierce. Mr. Chandler introduced the Board's newest member representing business, Mr. Wade Larson, as well as a soon to be new member representing business, Ms. June Altaras. Ms. Lisa Brown introduced Ms. Carolyn Busch, who will be providing support at future Board meetings for Director Brown.

The Board and members of the audience took time to offer their gratitude to longtime Workforce Board Deputy Director, Mr. Eric Wolf. Mr. Wolf's last day with the agency was announced and a proclamation and farewell presentations were given.

Consent Agenda (Action)

MOTION-2022-255-01: Mr. Mitchell moved to approve the Consent Agenda that included approval of the February 2022 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Jane Hopkins seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Workforce Board Executive Director, Ms. Eleni Papadakis, submitted her executive director's report in written form to the Board and opened the floor for questions. There were no questions from the Board.

WIOA State Plan Approval (Action)

Mr. Eric Wolf, Workforce Board, gave a presentation on Perkins Updates that included approval of performance indicators and approval of Perkins draft budget distribution. Mr. Wolf also presented approval of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) plan for submission: public comments received, and changes made to the plan, and approval of WIOA Title I and III proposed targets. Local area plan recommendations were also presented.

MOTION-2022-255-02: Ms. Kairie Pierce moved to approve the draft WIOA state plan and components. Ms. Lee Ann Caylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION-2022-255-03: Ms. Jan Yoshiwara moved for approval of local plans. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COVID Service Delivery Waivers (Action)

Workforce Board Staff, Mr. Eric Wolf, presented on three COVID-19 Flexibility Waivers initially approved in April 2020. The three waivers included WIN 0107—Suspending CASAS Testing Requirements for Youth, WIN 0108—Transferability Between Adult and Dislocated Worker Fund and WIN 0109—Verbal Self-Attestation. A motion was suggested to extend the waivers through December 31, 2022. This is a six-month extension that will likely be resolved at the November meeting, allowing staff and stakeholders ample time to gather information and address questions/concerns.

MOTION-2022-255-03: Mr. Mark Mattke made the motion to extend the waivers and Ms. Jan Yoshiwara seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Legislative Session Debrief 2022

Workforce Board Staff, Ms. Nova Gattman, gave a presentation on the 2022 Legislative Session that included a brief recap on the agenda development process and an update on the success of many items in the Board's 2022 legislative agenda. She also shared legislative charges and funding that will lead to new roles and staff additions. Ms. Gattman also discussed what's still on the table from 2022 for consideration for the 2023 Legislative Agenda and new stakeholder-driven ideas that may be of interest. Ms. Gattman included three additional Board packet items: a rollup of select bills of interest to the workforce system, a spreadsheet of workforce system investments, and a Medium story from Governor Inslee highlighting priority issues for this year.

Starting Up the Legislative Session 2023

Co-Chairs, Mr. Brown and Mr. Chandler, engaged the Board in a discussion on the Board's priority issue areas and where they may want more information in the form of panel presentations at future board meetings to help form their 2023 Legislative Advocacy agenda.

The Board's initial discussion focused on increasing completion of postsecondary credentials—including participation in registered apprenticeship programs. The Board acknowledged that work needs to be done on declining college enrollment rates and encouraging multiple pathways to economic success; particularly for the approximately 40% of young people who do not pursue a postsecondary credential after high school.

The Board also discussed the issues surrounding the need for increased flexible funding to provide services that are needed but are not funded under WIOA.

The Board chose to continue refining proposals for the advocacy areas that did not move forward last year on their agenda. Finally, the Board concluded with a request to staff to provide more information on the topics above by coordinating panels of experts to provide opportunities for deeper learning on highlighted areas at future meetings. Staff will coordinate panel presentations examining economic success for in-school youth and examining the potential need for flexible state funding for local workforce service needs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Tab 2

Workforce System Legislative Agenda Planning

Panel Presentations:

- Multiple Pathways to Economic Success for In-School Youth
 - Workforce Innovation Fund

PRESENTER NAME: Nova Gattman

BOARD MEETING DATE: 5/25/22

ISSUE/SITUATION: Be concise - 1 or 2 sentences that get to the heart of the situation, problem or opportunity being addressed.	THE ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY IS: Board staff, with the support and direction of the Board Co-Chairs, has put together two opportunities for deeper learning on concepts of interest raised in the April Board meeting. The ultimate goal of this work is furthering the Board's development of the 2023 legislative advocacy agenda.
TAP STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Which TAP strategic priority or priorities does this recommendation support? Can you tie to specific goals and objectives in TAP? Briefly describe these connections. If the connection is unclear, describe why this is of consequence to the Workforce Board and/or workforce system.	THIS IS IMPORTANT TO THE WORKFORCE SYSTEM BECAUSE: These conversations are of critical importance to the development of the Board's legislative advocacy agenda for 2023. Board members will be able to learn from key leaders about two topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing opportunities to improve economic success for in-school youth, with a goal of addressing the approximately 40% who do not go on to any postsecondary credential. - Learn more about challenges and limitation of WIOA at the local service level, including needs gaps for participant groups and communities, as well as consideration of the concept of a Workforce Innovation Fund. The Board has long supported improving outcomes for young people, and the concept of multiple pathways to economic success. Similarly, the Workforce Innovation Fund panel will highlight gaps in funding or structural limitations of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and help the Board identify where additional funding investments would most benefit the customers of the workforce system.
BACKGROUND: Short history of this topic. What has been tried, to what result? What evidence exists to support this recommendation?	Session 1: Multiple Pathways to Economic Success for In-School Youth Panel In the April Board meeting, there was a data point shared that approximately 40% of young people do not go on to any form of postsecondary credential. This session focuses on the supports and encouragement needed for this 40% to see the benefit, opportunity, and path to economic success through obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential. Chris Reykdal, Superintendent for Public Instruction Superintendent Reykdal and the OSPI team continue to develop pathways to high school graduation and post-secondary credentials that emphasize student course-taking and credential attainment while students are in high school. The OSPI team will use existing rulemaking authority to expand credit for work, and they will seek full funding from the Legislature to pay for all higher education fees charged to K–12 students who are taking college-level and post-secondary credential programs. The Superintendent will present data on the demographics and assessment achievement levels of high school graduates who are not attending traditional post-secondary offerings one year after high school graduation. Northwest Education Access NWEA serves low-income young people across King, Pierce, and the southern end of Snohomish County. NWEA works with students 1:1 to provide individualized comprehensive navigation services to help them reengage with education and get to and through postsecondary options. They work with a large network of community partners to leverage services. NWEA connects students with a range of these services based on their specific

needs in order to support their persistence on their education journey. The majority of their students have experienced being unhoused, have been connected to the foster care system, are parenting, and/or are from historically marginalized communities. Most of our students begin with an alternate high school credential pathway and then transition into a community or technical college.

Treehouse & Building Changes

Treehouse is an organization focused on achieving educational equity for youth in foster care. Treehouse provides education coaching, planning, navigation and advocacy to more than half of K-12 students experiencing foster care in the state. Building Changes leads statewide strategy to improve academic and housing outcomes for students experiencing homelessness. Together, Treehouse and Building Changes lead a legislatively-mandated workgroup called Project Education Impact (PEI) to achieve educational parity for students experiencing foster care and/or homelessness from Pre-K through postsecondary. They will share data on education and workforce barriers and outcomes, review current strategies and supports, and share policy and funding recommendations to improve outcomes for our state's most marginalized students.

People for People

Cindy Maib-Robinson is the employment and training director for People For People in Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, and Yakima, and the youth contractor for the South Central Workforce Council. She will be speaking to the work the group does to support at-risk and low-income in-school and out-of-school youth, meeting them where they are at with the critical lifeline services needed to move them into career pathways, educational attainment or other opportunities to support their success. People For People aligns services and programs with the needs of each client, whether it's housing or access to a driver's license and other basic and educational needs.

Session 2: Workforce Innovation Fund Panel

The second panel of the meeting focuses on challenges facing the provision of local services due to funding levels or limitations in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and Board members will be asked to consider further conversation about advocacy and policy development supporting the creation of a Workforce Innovation Fund. The Board will have the opportunity hear from state organizations providing local services as well as a presentation from a local Workforce Development Council and their partners.

Commissioner Cami Feek, Employment Security

Commissioner Feek will be providing a state perspective on the limitations and inadequacies of WIOA for local area services, including where she sees great need and also opportunities for the system to better serve the system customers.

Amy Martinez, CEO, South Central Workforce Council

Amy Martinez is the CEO for the South Central Workforce Development Council. The council's priority is serving low-income in-school and drop-out youth, economically disadvantaged adults, and laid off workers with apprenticeship, skill development, quality jobs, and self-sufficiency resulting in a highly trained workforce, enhanced productivity and profitability of area businesses. Amy will offer insights into the work local workforce boards do to further the economic viability of the region by connecting job seekers with services and supports to be able to enter the workforce and connecting employers with the right workers to fill their needs.

Economic Services Administration (DSHS)

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration (ESA), Community Services Division (CSD) administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Under the direction of WIOA, TANF is designated as a "mandatory partner" with the certified WorkSource centers, which includes providing access to TANF program services, as well as participating in all planning and execution of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA) efforts required under

	<p>WIOA. Beyond these requirements, CSD works to actively partner with the local Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and WIOA partners to jointly serve customers. CSD maintains a cohort of Community Services Offices (CSO) Administrators that represent the interests of DSHS, CSD, TANF, and our customers with the local WDCs and broader workforce development system partners. These local leaders sit on many of the local WDC Boards, and in the areas where there is not Board representation, these leaders participate in committees and other collaborative efforts. In addition to partnering relative to TANF, CSD has been expanding partnerships with WDCs relative to Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET), and innovative strategies, such as Economic Security for All (EcSA).</p> <p>Basic Education for Adults (SBCTC) The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) Basic Education for Adults (BEa) Office, with designated oversight of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), provides guidance, advocacy, and funding for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Acquisition (ELA) at Washington's thirty-four community and technical colleges as well as five community-based organizations. Local providers offer high school completion and integrated education and training programs designed to prepare students for living-wage careers and further educational opportunities. BEa also provides leadership in refugee education and corrections education in communities throughout the state.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS: What specific result do you want from the Board? Is this recommendation for discussion or action? If for discussion, will action be required at a later date? What next steps are expected after this discussion?</p>	<p>THE RECOMMENDATION AND/OR REQUESTED ACTION IS: Information and discussion only. Board members will have multiple opportunities throughout the day to engage with the presenters and discuss policy implications as a group.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board should feel comfortable in providing additional direction to staff on next steps in terms of developing learning opportunities for the Board where needed, and/or beginning policy development for subsequent meeting discussion.</p>

Tab 3

Executive Director's Report
Workforce Board Meeting, May 25, 2022—Meeting 256

1. **CTE State Directors Convene for Retreat**— Advance CTE, the national organization representing Career Technical Education state leadership from all U.S. states and territories, convened state CTE directors and partners in Baltimore, May 11-13. While Advance has kept a national CTE leadership dialogue going virtually throughout the pandemic, this is the first time the group has met in person in almost three years. I was pleased to be able to participate with OSPI's CTE Executive Director, Samantha Sanders.

The retreat focused on a vision and set of principles, developed by members and partners to build an integrated, learner-centered career preparatory ecosystem that supports all individuals throughout their education and career journeys. The retreat discussions highlighted how states are advancing the vision, challenges and opportunities, and selecting themes and topics the organization will explore with and on behalf of members going forward.

Developed by the membership, the visionary call to action is “Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education.” *Without Limits* reimagines CTE at the nexus of all types of education, training, career exploration, credentialing, and lifelong career learning. The five guiding principles of this learner-centered vision are:

- Each learner engages in a cohesive, flexible, and responsive career preparation ecosystem
- Each learner feels welcome in, is supported by, and has the means to succeed in the career preparation ecosystem
- Each learner skillfully navigates their own career journey
- Each learner's skills are counted, valued, and portable
- Each learner can access CTE without borders

Samantha and I will meet with staff of our co-administrative CTE partner, SBCTC, to share our learning and begin a discussion on goals and parameters for the next CTE state plan.

2. **“What's in a Job Title?” occupational data presentation**—In April, Marina Parr attended the annual conference for the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS) in New Orleans and brought state regulators of private career schools up to speed on Washington's new efforts to collect occupational data from employers. Marina's presentation, “What's in a job title? New data forges new career connections in WA state,” was well attended, with many audience members asking questions about how Washington collects this data and how the state intends to use it. Starting this year, Washington employers are required to provide job title information, along with hours worked and wages. Using this data, the Workforce Board's research staff will be able to show students and families, as well as taxpayers and policymakers, whether graduates of thousands of WA postsecondary education programs actually landed jobs in the career for which they trained. This information will be posted to the Workforce Board's public-facing Career Bridge career and education platform starting in 2023. Washington is just the third state to collect this data directly from employers.

3. **New Staff at the Workforce Board** — A rash of retirements, departures to external promotional opportunities, and new life priorities left our small organization with an unusually large number of vacancies. I am very pleased to report that we have brought superb new talent to the team! Here's a brief introduction to our new team members:

- The Consumer Protection Unit, which includes licensing and oversight of private career schools and program approvals for veteran's benefits (GI Bill education benefits) has a great deal of new energy. Lane Anderson joined our VA Team in October 2021. He comes from Spokane Falls Community College as the former Associate Director for Veterans & Workforce Transitions. He also held the Veterans Resource Center Benefits Manager position at Eastern Washington University. Along with our long-time VA lead John Murray and Lane, Logan Witt, a former School Certifying Official (veteran's programs) with South Puget Sound Community College, started in March to round out our VA team. Finally, a former School Certifying Official/L&I Analyst for Bates Technical College and Pierce College, Andrew Hall, joined Kamala Andrews and CPU Director Darlene Bartlett in March on our school licensing team.
- Elizabeth Court joins us May 23 as our WIOA Policy Manager. She will be our primary liaison to the Employment Security Department, the local workforce development councils and the wide range of partners and stakeholders engaged in our state strategic plan, *Talent and Prosperity For All*. She will also be a regular at Board meetings supporting the Board's role as the state's WIOA board through which she will cover the vast scope of topics and issues associated with improving state services for workers and employers.

Elizabeth is incredibly well-suited for such a broad role. She is well known and well-respected across our system as an innovator, a relationship builder, an ace researcher and economist and so much more. Elizabeth comes to us from the Employment Security Department's Employment Connections Division, where she oversaw numerous direct service programs across the agency. Many will know Elizabeth from her 5+ years serving as executive director of the Olympic Region WDC (Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties), and prior to that as the Olympic regional economist (ESD). Elizabeth also has a background in municipal and regional planning, business management, academia, and as a radioman in the U.S. Coast Guard & Reserves. She is a constant learner, letting her curiosity be her guide. Some of her credentials include a PhD in Forest Resources and a Master's Degree in Marine Affairs, both from the University of Washington, an MBA from Seattle University, and a host of non-degree credentials, including a green belt in Lean Six Sigma.

Elizabeth has many other interests including world travel. She has lived internationally as well, in Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, and Canada. We've been fortunate to work with Elizabeth as a partner for many years, and even more fortunate to now call her our team member!

- Renee Fullerton will be joining the Workforce Board on June 1 in our Health Workforce and Social Policy Associate role, as part of Nova's team. Renee has worked the past ten years at the Department of Health in health professions regulation and rural/underserved health workforce. She has previously represented the Department on the Health Workforce Council and has a great understanding of our role in moving the state's healthcare workforce forward. While originally from Kansas, Renee gained a lot of knowledge about rural Washington during her years working in rural health. She is proud that she's visited communities in every county in Washington except San Juan. She told me she hopes that she can round out that deficiency as

part of her work in the board since the islands face unique workforce challenges. Renee lives in Olympia with her family. In her free time, she enjoys art projects with her children, music and getting outside into nature.

- Melia Muamba will bring an international flair as she joins us as a Human Resource Consultant 4. Melia grew up in the United Kingdom, in Wales and London, and has traveled quite a bit internationally. Melia began her career as an events manager in London, after graduating with a B.A. in Events Management from the University of Cardiff. Discovering her interests in the human resources side of business management, Melia moved into HR assistant roles while she trained for more responsible positions, becoming the Human Resources Administrator for Investec Bank Plc in London.

We are thankful that Melia met her American husband along the way, and they chose to start their life together in the US—starting in Nebraska and recently relocating to Washington state. Melia had been serving as a Human Resources Officer for the State of Nebraska for the past 2 years, which was a good training ground for moving into this position. Melia also just completed her SHRM certification, the preparation for which gave her a solid understanding of the U.S. HR environment. At the Workforce Board, Melia will handle all day-to-day HR duties—likely to be many with so many new staff. Additionally, Melia will help us standardize and update our organizational policies and procedures that influence the culture, performance, and operations of our small but mighty organization.

- Filling an important position in our Research Division, Coral Garey has rejoined us after nearly eight years at the Evergreen State College. At Evergreen, Coral's research focused on student and college impact issues, such as enrollment, retention, graduation, outreach, and curriculum development. She previously supported the Board's Research Division from 2010 to 2013, having started with us as an intern. Coral has a strong interest and involvement in the performing arts and graduated from UW with an MPA.
- Kathy Borges is our new Fiscal Analyst 5, an important position we have desperately needed filled for almost a year. Kathy has worked in a variety of financial service positions within Washington state agencies for over 20 years. She came to state service from the private sector. Kathy came to us from the Department of Agriculture, where she supervised the Federal Contracts Billing, Travel Desk, and Cashiering units. In other agencies, she supervised payroll and accounts payable units, and also covered budgeting and contracts responsibilities. Kathy says, "I'm excited to be at the Workforce Training Board where I'll be doing a little bit of everything relating to financial services." We appreciate Kathy's enthusiasm for taking on the challenges of working in a complex small agency. So far, she has taken on every challenge with a smile. Kathy also enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling, exploring new places, and spending time with her daughters and grandsons.

4. **Performance Target Negotiations with US Department of Labor:** On Monday, May 9th Board and ESD staff met with Regional DOL staff to negotiate for the state's 2022 & 2023 performance targets for WIOA Titles I & III. The metrics for the three Title I programs were employment rates in the 2nd and 4th quarters after exit, median earnings, credential attainment rate, and measurable skill gain rate. For Title III it was the two employment rates and median earnings.

Board researchers using participant and other data, and with input from partners, developed models to determine the targets we would propose to USDOL. USDOL has its own model that uses historical data, going back 6 years. Our team had determined that the four-year pre-pandemic period data had little relevance to what was occurring currently and what we projected to occur in the coming program year. DOL agreed with 7 of the 17 targets (41%) we proposed and compromised considerably on most of the other measures. The biggest difference in models were for the Youth Programs, in particular for the measurable skill gains measure (MSG). While there was some compromise, the negotiated level ended up 11 percentage points higher than our models expected to reach. The chart below shows the final negotiated targets for each measure:

PY 2022-23 WIOA Measure by Program	Agreed Goal
Adult ER-2Q	63.6%
Adult ER-4Q	65.0%
Adult ME-2Q	\$8,070
Adults CAR-4Q	66.0%
Adults MSG	51.9%
DLW ER-2Q	66.6%
DLW ER-4Q	67.6%
DLW ME-2Q	\$9,678
DLW CAR-4Q	75.3%
DLW MSG	51.5%
Youth ER-2Q	60.0%
Youth ER-4Q	59.0%
Youth ME-2Q	\$3,663
Youth CAR-4Q	63.7%
Youth MSG	50.0%
WP/ES ER-2Q	62.9%
WP/ES ER-4Q	61.6%
WP/ES ME-2Q	\$7,550

Tab 4

Local Plan Approval Authority

PRESENTER NAME: Eleni Papadakis

BOARD MEETING DATE: 5/25/22

ISSUE/SITUATION: Be concise - 1 or 2 sentences that get to the heart of the situation, problem or opportunity being addressed.	THE ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY IS: Board staff is requesting authority for the Executive Director to oversee and ensure completion and compliance of federally required updates to the local Workforce Development Council (WDC) plans. Local plan updates were submitted in 2020, at the start of the pandemic, but had been written prior to the pandemic. The approval process must be completed by June 30, 2022, to meet federal reporting requirements.
BACKGROUND: Short history of this topic. What has been tried, to what result? What evidence exists to support this recommendation?	<p>Local WDCs submitted local plan updates for the Board's review and approval for the 2020-2022 cycle during early spring 2020. These plans were written before COVID-19 and submitted to the Board at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of ongoing discussions with local areas on alleviating workload and capacity demands due to COVID, the Board agreed to suspend the review process of local plans until after pandemic conditions eased. Unfortunately, due to the continued COVID-19 conditions and challenges, we are approaching the end of the two-year cycle in which those plans were relevant. Local areas will be expected to update their local plans again as early as next summer, in 2023.</p> <p>These plans were relevant to service conditions and strategies pre-pandemic. Therefore, the review process will determine only if the plans are federally compliant. The time to review and approve these plans is waning, with a June 30 federal reporting deadline.</p> <p>Board staff fully intended to bring forward the remaining plans for final approval at this Board meeting. Unfortunately, due to technical issues and staff transitions, that work has not yet been completed.</p> <p>Given the limited time frame for final approval, and in the interest of respecting the Board's time on this issue, Board staff are requesting that the Board empower the Executive Director to finalize the approval process for the remaining plans. If approval authority is granted, the Executive Director would be empowered to approve a local plan, or, if warranted, require corrective action to meet approval standards. Board staff will provide technical assistance as needed to support adequate and appropriate corrective action to ensure plans are federally compliant.</p>
RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS: What specific result do you want from the Board? Is this recommendation for discussion or action? If for discussion, will action be required at a later date? What next steps are expected after this discussion?	THE RECOMMENDATION AND/OR REQUESTED ACTION IS: The Board is asked to grant the Executive Director authority to approve or require corrective action to meet federal compliance for all local area workforce plan updates submitted in spring 2020.