East Cascades WORKS
Connecting Talent To Opportunity

Executive Committee Minutes
July 8, 2024 from 12:30pm-1:30pm
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom or Phone

Staff attendees: Heather Ficht, Jessica Fitzpatrick, Teresa Cummings-Weir, Nickelle Haffey
Executive Committee attendees: K'Lynn Lane, David Burger, Laurie Chesley

Quorum reached and meeting called to order at 12:37 pm.

12:30pm: Consent Agenda – K'Lynn Lane, Chair
Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from June 2024 Executive Committee Meeting – *vote required*
    - Laurie moved to approve the minutes as presented; Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or discussion.

12:35pm: Funding Updates – Heather Ficht, Staff

- Future Ready
    - Governor has opted not to fund HECC's Policy Option Package (POP) request of $75 million. Heather and colleagues across the state are trying to find a legislator to put forward legislation to fund us for Prosperity Program (formerly "Prosperity 10k"). Hope for flexibility to use $10 million for Adult, Youth, Navigator, or whatever is most effective in our region.
    - Once we have more clarity, we will ask for the Board's support, testimonies, or other help as needed.
- WSO Reentry
    - $2 million POP through HECC would round out staffing; currently there's not enough for a full staff person in each region. OED got 2 additional FTE for our area, but not elsewhere in the state.
    - Heather is developing a strategy with DOC's government relations liaison, OWP, and Equity Action Partners. A couple of legislators have been identified as being interested in the work.
- WIOA Gov Hold Back
    - Governor has the discretion to withhold 25% of WIOA funding; the 9 local workforce boards will compete for that money. Ww are well positioned. Heather predicts we'll prevail in behavioral health or construction.
- Construction Workforce Funding
    - No plan yet; haven't hired to replace governor's workforce liaison. Reached out to staff at Oregon Building Trades Council about drafting an MOU to formalize relationship between building trades and local boards.
- HB2235 - Behavioral Health
    - House bill passed; OHA competitively procured funding and awarded to us. COBHC did so well, we got an additional $140k to our current grant through an extension.

East Cascades WORKS
Connecting Talent To Opportunity

    - May compete for funding in collaboration with other boards; working on a joint recommendation on how to increase behavioral health access in Oregon.
    - Currently we're applying for Future Ready healthcare funding. We're in a good position, just a lot of irons in the fire. On July 17, Heather and colleagues will present to HB2235 committee responsible for making recommendations to Gov/Leg on future behavioral health funding and programs.
- Good news: big increase in WIOA Title 1 funding.
- Heather summarized that we have a lot of irons in the fire and will need the Board's support on some of them. She believes we're focused on the right populations in the right industries at the right time, so we're well positioned. Heather will come back with updates and ask for the support we need.
- Questions:
    - Laurie asked what levels of training are being incentivized in behavioral health.
        - Heather said our consortium is currently focused on Master's level clinicians. Some models on the coast have an apprenticeship program we could support as well. There is a need for psychologists in the region.
        - Licensing boards are a significant barrier; they are very backed logged, largely due to certificate of approval sites and billing. However, these are policy, not funding-based challenges.
    - K'Lynn asked about gap funding for the WSO Reentry program. She suggested looking at philanthropies for support and offered to do some research.
        - Heather mentioned a few other things that could help us:
            - Bureau of Justice might have an updated grant.
            - In the recent Senate hearing for WIOA reauthorization, Bernie Sanders was clear we're not doing enough for incarcerated people; his support could mean good things for us.
            - Could seek support from OCF.
            - Media: OWP is paying for us to record a video for promotion/outreach; a reporter is writing an article; and OPB recorded an interview at Deer Ridge Correctional. Getting in the news as much as possible will help our ask for funding.
            - Heather and Teresa have discussed forming a speaker's bureau of people who have been through the reentry program.
            - Helpful to identify barriers: why are people afraid to hire reentry population, and what safeguards can we put into place to address these concerns?
    - David Burger noted that we've got good steady streams of funding, but asked if there's anything we're concerned about or could need help with.
        - Heather said that WIOA reauthorization on the national level is a concern, especially if they require 50% of the funds to go towards training. This restriction would harm us, as we use funding largely for infrastructure, which lets us attract other funds to pay for training.

East Cascades WORKS
Connecting Talent To Opportunity

        - Jessica pointed out that the feds could count staffing costs within that 50%, although this is not for sure yet. Most of our money goes toward staffing, so this would be great for us.
    - The impact of the Supreme Court's recent decision on how to interpret WIOA's nuances is also a cause for concern.

1:00pm: July Board Meeting Agenda – Heather Ficht, Staff
Gather feedback on the draft July agenda – *information only*

- Membership changes:
    - Heather thanked Dave and K'Lynn for their willingness to re-run in their positions.
    - Three new Board members will start this month:
        - Brian Wiessmeyer, small business owner/innovator from Klamath Falls.
        - Susan Lewis, representing adult basic skills, will replace Erin Szymoniak.
        - Someone at EDCO will replace Julie Matthews; not sure who yet.
    - Make time for everyone, not just new members, to introduce themselves and answer an icebreaker question.
- Agenda changes:
    - Add demo of Dave Baiocchi's interface that helps immigrants translate credentials from their home country to the U.S. workforce. (Need to check with him first.)
    - Remove subcommittee breakout groups, as there likely won't be time. K'Lynn recommended reviewing subcommittees' next steps instead.
- October Board Meeting:
    - Schedule change: shift start time to noon to avoid conflict with WORKing Together Conference. Laurie volunteered to host at COCC; she and Nickelle will connect on logistics.
    - Possible agenda items:
        - Negative impact of additional CDL taxes in Portland Metro. Ron Cholin is up to date on transportation logistics and could speak on this.
        - Annual performance will be reviewed; tie in with strategic plan.
        - Update on revitalization of construction sector partnership.

1:30pm: Adjourn – K'Lynn Lane, Chair

- Meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.

<u>Attachments:</u>

- Draft June 2024 Executive Committee Minutes
- Draft July 2024 ECW Board Meeting Agenda