



**Full Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2024, | 4 p.m.**

SCW Conference Room & Zoom w/ link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81942022135?pwd=SG1zVGJlYlRzdDhQUmFvb3lRaFJpQT09>

Board Members Present:

Leanne Liddicoat, Chair	Graciela Villanueva	Richard Foster
Dennis Flabetich, Vice Chair	Jonathan Smith	Ron Anderson
Becky Gellerson	Linda Kaminski	Steve Hart
Cathy Sterbenz	Mara Lopez	Todd Wurl
Daniel Gansereit	Raul Lopez	

Staff Present:

Amy Martinez	Ariana Cordova	Michelle Smith
Tim Hoerner	Armando Flores	Patricia Padilla
Travis Piatz	Jensie Rosenow	Susy Moran
Meranda Smith	Kris Hartman	

Guests:

Kyle Curtis	Dennette Woodiwiss	Jed Watters
Patrick Baldoz	Madelyn Carlson	Freda Cogger
Yani Cisneros	Martin Garibay	Israel Cervantes
Lindsay Boswell	Tawnya Armstead	Sean Brogan
Victor Phillips	Jesse Diaz	Alma Caballero

Call to Order

Leanne Liddicoat called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. Introductions were made in person and via chat.

Childcare Presentation

Meranda Smith opened the presentation with a reminder to the board of the \$3,000,000 congressional direct spending grant which was awarded to Spokane Workforce Board and South Central Workforce to split in half. Of this funding, both Yakima County Development Association (YCDA) and Yakima Valley Community Foundation (YVCF), with YCFC having received the bulk going towards services to childcare providers. She introduced Yani Cisneros, Bilingual Business Development Manager from YCDA, and Lindsay Boswell, Chief Program Director from YVCF to present the current activities they are leading for the Administration for Children and Families Childcare Grant. Lindsay presented the history of the non-profit YV Community Foundation, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary. The organization is supported by a variety of funding sources, with services available in Central Washington. Lindsay elaborated on the steps YVCF is taking in supporting the Childcare Investment Initiative as well as other programs. The Childcare Investment Initiative has a mixed delivery format which

consists of support for employers in key industries, family and community outreach, and support for providers with capital expansion and business operations. In supporting employers in key industries, Lindsay presented the healthcare industry as a significant employer in both Yakima and Kittitas Counties, where childcare is a considerable barrier to recruitment and retention. She shared components of how YVCF is supporting the Memorial Foundation and Kittitas County Health Network. The funding context through Working Connections Childcare, 2024 WA State Legislative session: HB1525 and SB5225, was presented which also included the importance of information outreach to families and providing support to providers to preserve or achieve eligibility for funding. Furthermore, Lindsay highlighted the importance of family and community outreach as the summer and fall seasons are peak seasons and fast approaching. She moved on to share the capital expansion support to childcare providers. More provider support through Catholic Charities was also shared. Lindsay asked if there were questions, none followed. Yani Cisneros introduced herself and shared key initiatives being undertaken by the Yakima County Development Association. Such initiatives include workforce development, building local businesses, business recruitment, and infrastructure development. Yani shared the funds from the Childcare grant and created a new position at YCDA, the Bilingual Small Business Training Coordinator. She continued to share some highlights from the Childcare Accelerator Conference, where the attendees were given a binder and supply bag to keep all the informational documents they received throughout the conference. Over 80 people attended the English and Spanish conferences where three government agencies presented valuable information. Speakers from the WA State Secretary of State, WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries, and WA State Department of Revenue presented information on differences between sole proprietorship and LLCs, “what is a worker vs an employee”, and beneficial ownership taxes. Two panel discussions were given, the first from small business resources, where the entrepreneurs shared their experiences. The second panel was represented by Yakima County, City of Grandview, City of Yakima, and City of Zillah employees who discussed regulations and zoning for childcare/daycare providers. 11 organizations were also in attendance tabled with resources for the attendees. Since the conception of the Childcare Accelerator Team, 22 workshops, including digital education, financial education, and marketing, have been hosted with 45 businesses participating. From May 14, 2024, to July 30, 2024, 54 workshops are scheduled. Yani further elaborated on the expansion and startups, 4 childcare businesses are seeking expansion support and 2 potential start-ups in the childcare industry are on the slate. She asked if there were any questions. Ron Anderson commented there have been attempts to add a childcare option at Yakima County as it is a large employer of the community and asked if there was a way to get that reignited again. Yani responded it would be a great opportunity to look into it. No further comments followed.

Rapid Response Update

Travis Piatz provided a brief update on the rapid response outcomes, mostly ag layoffs, from the past three to four months. From the first quarter of the calendar year, January to March, the team responded to seven Rapid Responses (layoffs). The team arranges to present to the people affected by the layoffs to connect them as quickly as possible to WorkSource and Unemployment Insurance, attempting to get them re-employed. Some major businesses include

Del Monte, Thermal Forming Systems, and some school districts. These response sessions are held in English and Spanish with multiple schedules offered. Working with ESD, staff collect UI data for the area of how many people are on unemployment insurance. In March, about 1600 people were on UI from the agriculture industry, about 24% from our area. In April the number of ag UI claimants went down, however, the percentage has gone up due to other industry layoffs. This data is being tracked on a month-to-month basis, but staff are also working with our local economist to go back as far as three years to see the differences in trends post-COVID. Commissioner Curtis asked of the people who are part of the rapid response presentations, are the metrics being tracked when they connect to the WorkSource for resources. Travis replied, that roughly 40-50% are coming into the centers. Amy highlighted some of the employers have workers who are not citizens and opted out of services, such include H2A workers. No further comments followed.

Director's Report

Amy Martinez provided an update on the current operations, compliance updates, quarterly contract performance reports, and the enjoyable trip to Washington DC for the National Association of Workforce Boards conference. The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) received validation from the Washington State Attorney General's office that it is operating within its authority concerning WorkSource System Policy 1015. Policy 1015 overrides local authority regarding the operation of WIOA Youth programs, mandating either direct operation by local entities or procurement if they choose not to run the programs themselves (as outlined in WIOA 20 CFR 681.400 (a) and (b)). Key point takeaways are the policy was reviewed and confirmed to be within WTECB's jurisdiction by the Attorney General's office. WTECB board members have requested additional cost analysis on the impact of this policy, especially for local boards that prefer to operate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth programs directly rather than outsourcing them. The next steps include the final discussion, cost analysis, and approval of Policy 1015 which is scheduled for WTECB's June meeting. Post-approval, local boards and county commissioners who provided feedback during the comment period will receive responses to their concerns. The South Central Consortium of County Commissioners, along with Board Chair Leanne Liddicoat and Vice Chair Dennis Flabetich, expressed concerns and requested modifications to the policy in letters to Governor Inslee and the WTECB. The 2024-2028 Strategic Plan was submitted to the WTECB in March for their review. The WTECB and the Employment Security Department (ESD) staff reviewed the plan stating it met the local board guidelines. In June, the WTECB board will approve the local board's plans and subsequently send it to the Washington State Governor for final approval. The SCW should receive an approval letter from the Governor by the end of June for the start of the new Strategic Plan. The state investment in the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program is now codified in Washington State law. Economic Security for All SHB 2230 was approved and signed into law on March 14, 2024. The State Auditor's Office held the Audit Exit on March 19, 2024, and did not have any findings or issues that the SCW needed to address with this year's state audit. Lastly, Amy shared the contract performance report through March 31, 2024, can be found on our website at [Data - South Central Workforce](#).

Approval of Minutes

Leanne Liddicoat called attention to the presented Full Board Meeting minutes from February 13, 2024.

Ron Anderson moved to approve the February 13, 2024, Full Board meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Linda Kaminski. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Leanne Liddicoat called attention to the items of the consent agenda listed below, asking if any item needed to be removed for discussion, no comments followed.

- 05-23-001 Executive Committee Board Action Forms
- 05-23-002 March 2024 Financial Statements
- 05-23-003 Incumbent Worker Training - City of Bingen Contract Mod. 1
- 05-23-004 PY23 Commerce WorkFirst Amendment B

Ron Anderson moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Jonathan Smith. Motion carried.

PY24 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Request for Proposal Recommendation

The South Central Workforce Planning and Outreach Committee met on May 6, 2024, to review the PY24 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Request For Proposal applications and to arrive at a recommendation of award to the Full Board for a PY24 contract. The SCW received two proposals from People for People and Career Team LLC. The Planning and Outreach Committee was pleased with the interest of bidders as well as the quality of the proposals submitted. This is certainly reflected in the time it took the Planning and Outreach Committee members to reach a recommendation.

While we believe all proposals were well written and had their merits, one proposal more succinctly addressed the contract requirements. Key factors in the decision were based on management expertise, knowledge in serving the local area, clean financial audit and monitoring reports, and a strong training component design. In a unanimous vote, the Planning and Outreach Committee is recommending the award for the PY24 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth contract to People For People.

Ron Anderson moved to approve the PY24 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs in Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, and Yakima counties based on successful contract negotiations as presented, seconded by Dennis Flabetich. Motion carried.

Next Steps/Assignments

Board Officer Elections at November Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.