Full Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.
PNWU MultiCare Learning Center & Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88385649195?pwd=JiOcMPLDKTLyXiwDY10vqiURfKOUpu.1

***Board Members Present*:**

Leanne Liddicoat, Chair	Graciela Villanueva	Steve Hart
Christy Pettey, Vice Chair	Jonathan Smith	Teresa Rich
Barbara Cosner, Treasurer	Mara Lopez	Todd Wurl
Chelsea Rullie	Matt Wilkes	
Dennis Flabetich	Peter Finch	

***Staff Present*:**

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

***Guests*:**
Patrick Baldoz
Danielle Fish
Madelyn Carlson

Call to Order
Leanne Liddicoat called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment
Leanne Liddicoat opened the floor to guests for public comment for items not listed on the agenda. No comments were made.

PY25 Monitoring Report
Amy Martinez reported recent monitoring reviews conducted by the Employment Security Department and WA State Department of Commerce, resulting in zero findings, reflecting full compliance with programmatic and fiscal requirements. She also noted that monitoring of subrecipients similarly resulted in no findings. The board was informed that the monitoring reports demonstrated strong accountability and adherence to federal and state requirements across all programs.

Approval of Minutes
Leanne Liddicoat called attention to the May 12, 2026, meeting minutes.

Dr. Peter Finch moved to approve the May 12, 2026, meeting minutes, seconded by Dennis Flabetich. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda
Leanne Liddicoat called attention to the items on the consent agenda listed below, asking if any item needs to be removed for discussion. No comments followed.

- 09-26-001 Executive Board Action Forms
- 09-26-002 July 2026 Financial Statements
- 09-26-003 PY25 WIOA Programs Carry-in Mod.
- 09-26-004 SCW Board Approved Policies

Christy Pettey moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Graciela Villanueva. Motion carried.

PY26 Final Budget
Barbara Cosner presented the PY26 Final Budget. The South Central Workforce approved a PY26 Preliminary Budget on June 9th, 2026. Due to PY25 carry-in funds and increases in expected in-house and subcontractor expenses, a modified PY26 Final Budget needs to be approved. The PY26 Final Budget was presented to and approved by the SCW Finance Committee on September 21st, 2026. Major changes in the PY26 Final Budget as compared to the PY26 Preliminary Budget are as follows:

- Grant/Contract Revenue increased $1,307,736. This increase consists of the following:
    - $955,234 increase in the WIOA grants due to PY25 carry-in,
    - $260,447 decrease in the WorkFirst grant,
    - $555,949 increase in the discretionary grants (RESET, CRF, DVR Youth and RRAA) due to PY25 carry-in, and
    - $57,000 increase due to new Opportunity grant.
- Board expense budget was increased $3,000 for the Board retreat.
- Communications budget was increased $51,905 for Dislocated Worker outreach campaign.
- Subcontractor/Incumbent Worker expenses increased $1,166,027. This increase consists of the following:
    - $824,000 increase in WIOA subcontracts,
    - $243,257 decrease in WorkFirst subcontracts,
    - $530,784 increase in discretionary subcontracts (RESET, CRF, DVR Youth and RRAA),and
    - $54,500 increase for the new Opportunity subcontract.
- Change in Net Assets of $164,787 is potential revenue generated from WorkFirst and DVR Youth grants along with interest income.
- The SCW projected fund balance at the beginning of the current program year is $2,857,067 and is expected to increase by $196,083 to $3,053,150 by the end of the program year due to interest on the SCW investments, revenue generated from the WorkFirst and DVR grants, along with tenant improvement recovery.

Dennis Flabetich moved to approve the PY26 Final Budget as presented, seconded by Matt Wilkes. Motion carried.

PY26-27 Negotiated Federal Performance Measures

Meranda Smith presented the PY26-27 Negotiated Federal Performance Measures. In prior years, Washington State did not require local workforce boards to formally approve negotiated Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth performance measures. This year, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) is requiring formal Board action as part of the Board Certification process.

Each year, the WTECB, acting as the Governor's designee, develops proposed WIOA performance targets for local workforce development areas using a federally approved statistical adjustment model. As directed by the U.S. Department of Labor, performance targets are negotiated for two program years at a time. The model considers historical performance, economic conditions, participant characteristics, labor market trends, and other required adjustment factors. Consistent with WIOA performance accountability requirements, negotiated local performance levels are established through agreement among the Governor (or designee), the Local Workforce Development Board, and the Chief Local Elected Official prior to the start of the program year. The negotiation process gives local areas an opportunity to review the state's proposed targets and request adjustments when regional economic conditions, participant characteristics, recent performance, or other local factors support a different level.

After receiving the proposed PY26/PY27 targets, staff compared them with South Central's prior negotiated levels, recent actual performance, and current regional economic conditions to determine whether the proposed goals were ambitious, achievable, and aligned with local labor market conditions.

Following this review, South Central submitted two counterproposals to WTECB: lowering the Adult Credential Attainment Rate target from 80.4% to 78.0% and the Dislocated Worker Median Earnings target from $11,500 to $11,200. The requests were based on recent performance history, participant characteristics, and the anticipated impact of agricultural sector layoffs on employment outcomes and post-exit earnings.

These adjustments are consistent with the factors allowed in the federal process and maintain accountability for strong performance. WTECB accepted both proposed adjustments.

Dr. Peter Finch moved to approve the PY26-27 Negotiated Federal Performance Measures as presented, seconded by Jonathan Smith. Motion carried.

PY26 DSHS Youth DVR Pre-Employment Transition Services Program Grant

Meranda Smith presented the PY26 DSHS Youth DVR Pre-Employment Transition Services Program grant. The South Central Workforce has been awarded a contract by the Department of Social Health and Services (DSHS) for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) Pre-Employment Transition Services Program. Funding is $250,000 for October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027, and $250,000 for October 1, 2027, to September 30, 2028. The program

will provide in-school students with job exploration and post-secondary counseling, workplace readiness training, self-advocacy training, and paid and unpaid work-based learning activities.

Grant services will be coordinated by People For People in high schools within ESD 105's jurisdiction and will run from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2028, with additional funds and a contract extension available if provided by DSHS.

Graciela Villanueva moved to approve the PY26 DSHS Youth DVR Pre-Employment Transition Services Program Grant as presented, seconded by Christy Pettey. Motion carried.

PY26 Opportunity Partnership Program Grant Renewal

Meranda Smith presented the PY26 Opportunity Partnership Program Grant renewal. The South Central Workforce Board has been awarded a $57,000 grant from the Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) to continue the Opportunity Partnership Program (OPP) for Program Year 2026. South Central Workforce will subcontract with People For People (PFP) and partner with Yakima Valley College (YVC) to provide career-connected mentorship and workforce development opportunities for Opportunity Grant students pursuing careers in healthcare, behavioral health, information technology, business, and early childhood education. Building on prior years of success, the program will offer flexible opportunities for students to connect with employers and industry professionals through career conversations, workplace tours, informational interviews, job shadows, mentoring relationships, and other career exploration activities. The project is designed to help students strengthen their connection to their chosen career pathway, expand professional networks, and successfully transition from education to employment.

PFP will coordinate student engagement, employer outreach, mentoring activities, and participant support in collaboration with YVC. The program will enroll 25 students throughout the grant period, which will run from the date of execution through May 31, 2027.

Dennis Flabetich moved to approve the PY26 Opportunity Partnership Program Grant Renewal as presented, seconded by Dr. Peter Finch. Motion carried. Dr. Teresa Rich abstained from the motion.

Next Steps

Amy Martinez shared the WWA 2026 Workforce Summit conference with the board, inviting members interested in attending to connect with her.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.