

## SkillSource Regional Workforce Board

### Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Via Web Video Conference

Moses Lake, Wenatchee & Omak, plus other locations

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. She thanked everyone for attending.

### **November 29, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

***Michelle Price moved and Tad Hildebrand seconded to approve the minutes for the November 29, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion carried.***

### **Director's Report**

Lisa gave highlights from her report. She informed the Board that once the State Workforce Board updates its 4-year plan, SkillSource will begin updating the local strategic plan. A proposal to increase Economic Security for All by nearly \$14 million is before the legislature; Lisa asked the Board members to consider sending letters of support for this funding (she will provide talking points for the Board members). She spotlighted youth career development, collaboration with economic development, and one-stop operator kick-offs as highlights for the quarter in progress. She notified the Board that three candidates are in nomination for service: Julie Helligso of Cascade Veterinary Clinics, Tom Legel of Confluence Health, and Dr. Faimous Harrison from Wenatchee Valley College. OIC of Washington is moving into the former learning center space at WorkSource Central Basin. SkillSource has been selected as one of six Open Doors program sites statewide to study best practices.

### **Sub-Area Committee Reports**

**Okanogan:** Lisa reviewed the Okanogan Committee meeting. She explained that Employment Security is improving steadily under their corrective action plan. She summarized the One-Stop Operator kickoff and the discussion around workforce and economic development cooperative events.

The staff presented to the Okanogan subcommittee the sole proposal received in response to the solicitation in January. Employment Security received a score of 79 out of 100. The committee recommended entering into contract negotiations to contract with ES.

***Sara Thompson Tweedy moved and Ken Johnson seconded to approve contract negotiations with Employment Security Department for 2023-24 service delivery in Okanogan County. Todd Wurl abstained from the vote. Motion carried.***

**Grant/Adams:** Lisa began the report summary by highlighting the success story of a youth participating in the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program hired on by Grant County Animal Outreach. The committee received information about the QUEST Dislocated Worker Grant and the accompanying business outreach and community engagement plans. The committee discussed budgeting priorities, including business services, communications, and sustainability of QUEST funded activities.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Susan summarized the success story involving the Cascade Veterinary Clinics registered apprenticeship program. The committee received updates on Pre-ETS, QUEST, and the Workforce Collaboration Summit on May 10<sup>th</sup> to be hosted at Wenatchee Valley College. The committee also discussed workforce and economic development cooperative events, budgeting priorities for the coming year, and board candidates for the several Chelan/Douglas vacancies.

Lisa also pointed out that the economic updates for each labor market area delivered at each committee meeting are appended to the board packet. Tad thanked Aaron for the reports. Lisa mentioned that Kim Cavanaugh, the new communications and outreach manager, will be developing an electronic newsletter and will include some of these updates.

**Executive Committee:** Laura explained that two proposals were received for audit services and were rated by Laura, Roni and Michelle. Cordell, Neher & Co had a higher score and was recommended by the raters to be approved for the next four years.

***Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde moved and Peggy Vines seconded to approve the selected auditor, Cordell Neher & Co. Motion carried.***

Lisa explained that SkillSource has received additional funds since the board approved budget; a modification is required due to the amount of funds received. The overall increase is about \$69,000 for the executive budget, which will be used for communications (salary and marketing services).

***Annette Herup moved and Tad Hildebrand seconded to approve the proposed modification to the executive budget. Motion carried.***

### **Career Connect Washington Presentation**

Dr. Sue Kane and Aaron Parrott presented a summary of the Career Connect Washington initiative and its components, as pertains to North Central. Sue summarized the CCW framework and identified the local partners and programs in support of the initiative, including Career Launch program builder grants supporting regional industries, and learning specialists supporting regional career connected events and programming. The board members were invited to subscribe to the CCW newsletter. Roni asked how businesses and organizations can partner; Sue and Aaron recommended getting in touch with them for information on hosting events, or information about program builder opportunities. Lisa and Michelle commended the CCW team for their presentation and work across the region to support career connected learning.

### **Board Celebrations**

Annette Herup shared that Genie/Terex is now hiring individuals without secondary credentials contingent on their enrollment into a high school completion program. This has served to widen the talent pool while improving the opportunities for local career seekers.

Sara Thompson Tweedy amplified that the approach Annette mentioned is resulting in increasing targeted skills training. She also said that the increase in refugees in the region has resulted in an expanded need for English language instruction and post-secondary education, which is being met with innovative approaches and solutions.

Roni thanked Annette and Sara for sharing and exhorted the board members to share about the services provided by the workforce development partnership within and throughout their circles.

Lisa added that she and the SkillSource staff are prepared to assist board members in sharing that information in their communities.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

**In Attendance:**

Annette Herup  
Tad Hildebrand  
Roni Holder-Diefenbach  
Ken Johnson  
Kyle Niehenke  
Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde  
Anthony Popelier  
Michelle Price  
Sara Thompson Tweedy  
Pablo Villarreal  
Peggy Vines  
Zach Williams  
Todd Wurl

**Not In Attendance:**

Randy Curry  
Crystal Gage  
Augustine Gallegos  
Brant Mayo

**Staff In Attendance:**

Lisa Romine  
Laura Leavitt  
Susan Adams  
Aaron Parrott  
Christy Mataya  
Alicia Wallace  
Emily Anderson

**Guests**

Dr. Sue Kane, North Central ESD/Apple STEM Network  
Adriana Lopez, WorkSource Central Basin