

NWDC ► Northwest Workforce Development Council

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Northwest Workforce Development Council Meeting Minutes May 25, 2005 WorkSource Skagit

Action:

Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. February 23, 2005 Council Meeting Minutes**
- B. Committee actions taken: May 11, 2005 Executive Committee, April 27, 2005 Quality Assurance, Youth Council and Program Planning Committees Meetings:**
 - 1. Annual Audit for Year Ending June 2004**
 - 2. WIA 1B Performance Report PY 2004 3rd Qtr – WIA Title 1B Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth**
 - 3. Program Year 2005 Funding Summary: Annual Allocation Comparison, Funding Summary & Planned Budget Expenditures, Allocation Distribution, and Planned Program Service Levels**

Minutes:

The meeting was brought to order by Chair Dick Nord at 2:00 pm.

A three-ring binder for each Council member was available at the meeting, containing meeting agendas and related materials for 2005 meetings that have already taken place. Chair Nord reported that the binders were for Council members' convenience, as a place to keep meetings materials. Council members will receive a new binder each year. From this date onward all meetings material will be printed on three-hole-punched paper, for easy insertion into the binder. The binders received a favorable response.

Chair Nord presented a ceremonial gavel to outgoing Chair Shirley Osborn.

Consent Agenda

Deputy Director Alex Kosmides provided a summary of the items contained in the Consent Agenda. Council members approved a request that the Program Year Funding Summary be discussed and voted upon separately, under New Business.

There was then unanimous approval of the Consent Agenda, on a motion by Tammie O'Dell, seconded by Ian Munce.

Council Report

Bellingham Herald Editorial Board Meeting – Chair Nord reported that he recently participated in an editorial board discussion at the Bellingham Herald. Staff from the State Workforce Training Board, the Employment Security Department and Representative Kelli Linville were also present. The discussion focused on ways that communities can link economic development with workforce development, with particular emphasis on funding issues. Gay reported that the Workforce Development Council has contracted with WWU's Center for Economic and Business Research to develop labor market information for the Council's 2005-07 Strategic Plan, which can link economic development to workforce development initiatives in our region.

National Collaborative on Youth with Disabilities Longitudinal Study: Site Visit – Gay reported that the National Collaborative on Youth With Disabilities representatives were here during the week of May 9, 2005, for the third of five annual visits during which they track the progress of ten students receiving NWDC services, and to conduct interviews with staff and board members. The purpose of the visits is to evaluate how this area provides services to youth with disabilities. The study links to other work going on in our area, including the work of the regional disabilities team. Carl Johnston of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provided a summary of regional disabilities team activities. He also discussed the Disability Navigator initiative, and a marketing brochure for the program was distributed to Council members. Gay noted that the NWDC board was involved early on in setting policy for disability initiatives. She went on to say that the Collaborative monitors were very impressed with the work being done in this region, which ranks among the best in the nation.

National Association of Workforce Board (NAWB) Annual Conference – The annual NAWB conference was attended by Council members Dick Nord, Don Munks, Lori Province, Terry Brennan and Tammie O'Dell, as well as NWDC administrative staff. Lori Province provided a summary of the conference for council members. Lori and other attending members agreed that the conference reinforced the fact that our area is well ahead of much of the rest of the nation in workforce development initiatives. There was discussion noting the worth of the conference for board members and about this years content, with one of the primary themes being the global workforce development race and the need to provide education to the American workforce to maintain a competitive edge. Those who attended the conference reported that, as a board member, it was energizing experience.

Gay reported that Microsoft is engaged in an initiative to provide basic computer and software skills to persons of all ages who are not connected in to the public school system. Microsoft has inquired about using WorkSource One-Stop Centers as pilot sites for the initiative. The Workforce Development Councils throughout the state are discussing this possibility with the Gates Foundation. If

these discussions bear fruit, it would mean making computer training services available using additional software at the Centers selected for the pilot.

Correspondence/Director's Report

Reauthorization of the WIA-current status –

Gay reported on slow progress toward reauthorization, noting that as information is received, it will be posted to the www.nwboard.org web site.

ESD WorkFirst Job Search Program –

Gay reported that the Employment Security Department's TANF (WorkFirst) contract has been reduced by ten million dollars per annum. The ESD has developed a program reduction plan. WorkFirst reductions will take place effective July 1, 2005. This will remove the half-time WorkFirst staff from WorkSource Whidbey, and clients will be served from the Mount Vernon office. As a cost-saving measure, the ESD is putting WorkFirst into WorkSource One-Stop Centers, where feasible. It is expected that this will increase traffic at affected WorkSource locations. Additionally, at WorkSource Whidbey, Employment Security will no longer be able to fund half the rent costs for the Center. The WDC is investigating ways in which the additional cost burden can be mitigated, and Center services provided. Gay reported that planning TANF job search activities will become part of the WDC's Strategic and Operations planning process. Council members discussed how Island County residents will be affected by changes in the WorkFirst program.

Commissioner's Day at WorkSource Whidbey - Sharon Hart led a discussion of the May 6, 2005 Island County Commissioner's visit to WorkSource Whidbey. WDC staff member Brian Humphrey narrated the PowerPoint presentation used during the visit. Copies of the informational packet from the May visit (including the PowerPoint presentation) were distributed to Council members.

WorkSource Skagit -

Alex reported that the project is on track to open on December 1, 2005. Ground has been broken, and construction activities are evident at the site, just a few yards from the Council meeting room. Gay drew member's attention to the sample work space on display in the meeting room. Bill Thorn asked the board to recognize the work that Affiliate Administrator Chris Mietus, WDC County Manager Brian Humphrey and Partnership Coordinator Gary Smith have accomplished to date toward integration and alignment of services between the Mount Vernon WorkSource Affiliate and WorkSource Skagit, as the two sites prepare for co-location in the new facility.

NWDC Business Service Sector Strategic Initiatives

Marine Manufacturing and Technology Skill Panel –

Alex provided a brief summary of the regional conference, held in Bremerton last Friday, May 20. The summit (hosted by the Olympic Consortium WDA, the Pacific-Mountain WDA, and the Northwest Workforce Development Council)

drew 90 attendees. Sharon Hart provided additional information, noting that the Bremerton summit built upon the success of last year's 2004 conference held in Anacortes, organized by the Workforce Development Council and Skagit Valley College. The website www.marinemanufacturingcenterofexcellence.com contains a summary of this conference, and links to this site will be posted to nwboard.org.

Northwest Alliance for Health Care Skills –

Dick Nord reported that the Northwest Alliance for Health Care Skills conducted a successful strategic planning meeting on March 29, including an awards dinner. Alliance members identified RN, Nursing Aides, Physical Therapists, Imaging Tech and Medical Secretary as priority areas for the Alliance to focus on for future development of training capacity in the Northwest Region. The Alliance continues to be recognized for its excellent work in our region.

Alex reported that the WDC has received a PY05 Incumbent Worker Training Fund Grant Award, will be used in providing training to incumbent workers in the Health & Allied Services fields and Marine and Wood Products Manufacturing fields. He reported that, in addition to Summer Health Careers Camps for youth, this year the WDC is also sponsoring a Summer Construction Careers Camp with the participation of local builders, union and apprenticeship representatives and an internship project with the Rotary Club.

Local Strategic and Operations Plan Development Process Update

Gay and Alex provided a review of the process to date, noting that the 2005-07 Plan represents a modification of the existing Strategic and Operations Plans, not a complete re-write. The draft is due to the state by June 30, the final by August 15. The Plan will contain a thorough update of the economic, labor market and demographic profile of the Northwest Region. The state's Plan Guidance has been posted on the www.nwboard.org site, with an email to board members, partner leaders and other stakeholders to request input. A special meeting of the Executive will be called in late June to approve the draft with approval of the final Plan scheduled for the Full Council meeting in August.

New Business

There was discussion of the agenda item Program Year 2005 Funding Summary packet, which had been separated from the Consent Agenda for this purpose. This agenda item prompted discussion of the reduced budget for next year. Gay reported that the Workforce Development Council is expected to do the same or greater amount of work in the community with less funding than in previous years. She went on to say that WDCs in Washington are working with the state to increase infrastructure support for WDCs. Council members discussed adjustments in WDC activities that will be made as a result of the reduced funding.

The Program Year 2005 Funding Summary received unanimous approval, on a motion by Tammy O'Dell, seconded by Lori Province.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dick Nord at 4:05 pm.

Attendance

Council Members and Alternates – Dick Nord, Carl Johnston, Tammie O'Dell, Nancy Wolke, Bill Thorn, Gerald Pumphrey, Shirley Osborn, Mary Lou Meader, Sharon Hart, Lori Province, Don Munks, Gary Tollefson, Tonja Myers, Ian Munce, Cynthia Shelton, Jim Wells, Steve Koch, , Sheila Brillson

Youth Council Members: Kim Shillinger

Local Elected Officials: Island County Commissioner Bill Byrd

Staff – Gay Dubigk, Alex Kosmides, Brian Humphrey, Kit Vonnegut

Guests – Dave Mallory, Chris Mietus, Mike Riber, Kathy Kerkvliet, Ronnie Sue Johnson