



SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2022 – 7:30-9:30am

Meeting held in-person at the Ruby River Hotel, 700 N Division St – Shoreline A Ballroom and via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kelley Charvet, Board Chair Christina Vigil Gross, Board Vice Chair Dr Kevin Brockbank Toby Broemmeling Robert Duron Dan Evans Dr. Christi Harter Honorable Josh Kerns Dr. Wade Larson Luis Licea Steve MacDonald (designee for Mayor Woodward) Dr. Shari McMahan Kimberly Myles Derek Tyree Jennie Weber Joel White		MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Bosma Rebecca Cook Mary Crago Doug Edmondson Lori Hunley Machel Johnson Vicki Leifer Tina Morrison Katy O'Connor Diane Quincy Diana Wilhite Mayor Nadine Woodward	
OTHERS PRESENT: Darin Christiansen Cami Eakins Stephanie Guthrie Kathy Hammonds Damian Harper	Kate Martin Mick Miller Jennifer Morris Terrance Nixon	Carol Padovan Steve Ruggles Scott Simmons Anthony Singleton Ron Valencia Lori Veitenheimer	
STAFF PRESENT: Mark Mattke Dawn Karber Kevin Williams Jessica Clayton Andrea Hixson Michael McBride Tim Robison Victor Rapez-Betty Melissa Voelker		STAFF ABSENT: Mandy Adamson	

Chair Kelley Charvet called the meeting to order at 7:38am with a quorum of members present.

MEETING THE MISSION

Kevin Williams, Director-Next Generation Zone

Kevin took the floor to speak on the success of the Open Doors initiative with Next Generation Zone. To highlight his points, he shared a video success story of the 1,000th graduate of the program (since 2014). He spoke on the collaborative efforts of partners such as Career Path Services, New ESD 101, Goodwill Industries of the Inland NW, and Spokane Community College. He also discussed the importance of key initiatives such as bringing in a full-time behavioral health counselor to connect with students.

Mick Miller (Assistant Superintendent-Student Learning and Support Services), introduced by Kevin, took the floor next to talk about the Open Doors program, which began as a priority initiative from the governor to get students back into education. Open Doors is fully funded by the State of Washington, and while originally it was a program separate from workforce, it has since been combined with partners to create an array of support services. Those partners currently include 15 school districts.

Terrance Nixon, Open Doors Program Director, also took the floor to briefly give thanks to the people and organizations that have helped make the program successful and helped it to reach a thousand lives so far.

ITEM #1 – REVIEW OF OCTOBER 12TH MEETING MINUTES

Kelley Charvet, Board Chair

Meeting minutes from the June 8, 2022, board meeting were reviewed.

***ACTION: Motioned and Seconded to approve the June 8, 2022, meeting minutes.
Approved unanimously.***

ITEM #2 – NEW MEMBER NOMINATION

Mark Mattke, Chief Executive Officer

Toby Broemmeling, Vice President of State Programs for Skills'kin, submitted his candidacy to fill a current membership vacancy on the Board. Toby, with a strong private sector background, has also served as Executive Director of the West Plains Chamber of Commerce.

***ACTION: Motion and Seconded to nominate Toby Broemmeling and forward such nomination to Chief Elected Officials for appointment.
Approved unanimously.***

ITEM #3 – RESOURCE CENTER OF SPOKANE COUNTY-PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Dawn Karber, Chief Operations Officer

Dawn introduced several employees working with Resource Center of Spokane County (RCSC) from two of the center's core partners - Career Path Services (CPS) and Pioneer Human Services - whose collaborative efforts have made the RCSC successful. Before turning the floor over to the guests, she explained how funding for the center has been raised, how that money is currently in place through May 2023, and finished by sharing a success story from one of the community members the RCSC has served.

Jen Morris, Director of RCSC, spoke before the Board on the milestones reached within the last year. Even with a slowdown during COVID, the center has seen 500-600 people served each month, with highs reaching around 700 people right before and now after COVID. *Anthony Singleton, EcSA Navigator from CPS*, spoke less in specifics and more in overall needs served to the community. He briefly discussed

generational poverty, situational poverty, and the importance of stabilizing families and training people in life and job skills. *Darrin Christenson, Workforce Development Program Manager (Pioneer Human Services)*, rounded out the presentations by discussing how important services are for those returning to the workforce after time incarcerated or dealing with rehabilitation from substance abuse. He made a point of highlighting how important having work to focus on is for reintegration into society without lapses that might return people to incarcerated status. Having assistance with paying legal fees, attending appointments and court dates, and working with mental health professionals during the reentry period are also high priority needs.

ITEM #4 – CHILDCARE SOLUTIONS AS A WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Mark Mattke, Chief Executive Officer

Mark introduced *Jessica Clayton, SWC Program and Development Director*, who gave a presentation on the large issue childcare presents to employers, employees, and the community. During the pandemic, thousands of parents left the workforce to care for their children. As they've sought to return to regular employment they have been faced with multiple barriers. Childcare centers are struggling to stay open, hire and retain staff, and charge affordable rates for working families. Costs for private-pay childcare have risen alongside that for housing and made many parents decide between going back to work full time or to continue to stay home to care for their kids. In fact, 75% of families who participated in an August 2022 survey through SWC indicated that a lack of openings, needing care during non-traditional hours, high costs, and a lack of quality care, have all made a return to the regular workforce difficult or not feasible in some cases.

The SWC has been working for the last six months on developing funds and programs to support solutions to the childcare crisis in the Spokane community. Spokane County awarded \$2.2 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the SWC based on a request-for-proposal submitted earlier in the year. Another \$1.5 million is anticipated in FY2023 from Senator Patty Murray's Congressionally Directed Spending Request. These funds will be used to support families seeking to return to work and/or school, and who are not eligible for state subsidies on care. Childcare providers and businesses will also be able to apply for services created with these funds.

The Executive Committee voted to accept funds (adding \$2 million to the operating budget) and subcontract to the Spokane Workforce Consortium at the October 27, 2022, meeting. An advisory group of early learning professionals, associates, providers, and state-level advocates has been convened and all current details and frequently asked questions about the childcare initiative are housed on a website (www.spokaneresourcecenter.org/childcare - going live in early 2023) that can be accessed by families and providers looking for more information.

ITEM #5 – FISCAL REPORT

Mark Mattke, Chief Executive Officer

Mark introduced *Jeanette Facer, SWC Finance Director*, who gave a presentation on the updated financial status of the SWC, as well as the results of this past year's state monitoring visits and audits by the State Auditor's Office. This presentation included a breakdown of the PY22 Active Grants Under Management, current Actual vs Budget for Program Year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and a breakdown of Subcontracted Services from July 2022 to October 2022.

The results of the monitoring and audit visits were overall positive. There were no fiscal findings from DSHS Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET), and no findings on Department of Commerce CDBG (food assistance), Spokane County Homeless Housing & Assistance Act (HHAA), and Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds. There are several follow-up administrative items that will need to be implemented next fiscal year for the WIOA funds, including an update Consortium agreement between the City and County, and updated Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA) language for costs for required partners not located on the campus.

ITEM #6 – ANNUAL RETREAT SUMMARY

Kelley Charvet, Board Chair

The annual Board retreat for the SWC Board of Directors was held at the Spokane Convention Center on October 22, 2022. The time together was utilized to evaluate current economic conditions, share experiences in the labor market from the perspective of businesses, job seekers, and partners, and to help shape the position of the Board toward the local workforce system for the upcoming year. Presentations, group dialogue, and round-table discussions were facilitated by Keven Perkey of Uphill Partners. Mike McBride, SWC Business & Industry Analyst, also gave a presentation on national trends in job openings vs unemployed individuals, declining birthrate and the looming workforce cliff, innovative hiring and retention strategies, and the current growth in remote and gig work.

Board members participated in a brief round-table discussion over the results and notes of the Retreat, and much of the dialogue focused on the continuing struggle of more job openings than quality candidates to fill them, the increasing demand for new modes of work (such as remote, hybrid, non-traditional scheduling), retaining current employees, and assisting refugees and immigrants so they can get into the workforce in quality positions they are trained for as quickly as possible.

ITEM #7 – STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kelley Charvet, Board Chair

Executive Committee:

Kelley gave a review of the items the Executive Committee took action on during its July 28, August 22, September 15, October 27, and November 30, 2022, meetings.

TradeUp2 Construction Projects

The committee unanimously approved the SWC entering into an agreement with the Inland Northwest Association of General Contractors for funding to be used as follows:

Up to \$100,000 toward TradeUp2 Construction projects, with \$90,000 subcontracted to the Spokane Workforce Consortium (Career Path Services, Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest, and the Employment Security Department) to hire a Career Navigator to perform project-related duties.

Opportunity Partnership Program (OPP) Grant

The committee unanimously approved acceptance of \$56,500 in Opportunity Partnership Program funding – up to \$40,000 of which will be subcontracted to Career Path Services.

TradeUp Spokane Grant (Revision to Subcontract)

The committee unanimously approved subcontracting up to \$95,000 of TradeUp Spokane funding to the WorkSource Consortium.

Basic Food Employment & Training grant (BFET) – Fiscal Year 2023

The committee unanimously approved authorization of the SWC to accept up to \$258,449 from DSHS – up to \$100,000 of which will be subcontracted to the Consortium (CPS, Goodwill, New ESD 101) as needed.

QUEST Dislocated Worker Grant

The committee unanimously approved acceptance of \$1,021,809 in QUEST DWG funds from the Employment Security Department – up to \$922,000 of which will be subcontracted to the WorkSource Spokane Consortium (CPS, ESD, Goodwill).

Spokane County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Award

The committee unanimously approved acceptance of \$2,200,000 in ARPA funds from the Board of Spokane County Commissioner (Spokane County, WA) – with \$2,000,000 to be used to develop childcare-focused programs for families and industry professionals.

Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant Increase

The committee unanimously approved acceptance of an additional \$102,134 in DW funds returned from other workforce agencies. Up to \$95,000 of these funds will be subcontracted to the WorkSource Consortium.

CEO Evaluation

The committee approved the recommendations made by the Compensation Committee.

Services and Oversight Committee:

Robert Duron, Chair of the Services and Oversight Committee, requested a quick summary from Dawn Karber (SWC COO) of recent outreach efforts. Dawn went over Workforce Wednesday (#WFW) weekly appearances on the Good Day morning show (FOX 28), as well as the new workforceNERD podcast posted on LinkedIn and YouTube. She pointed out that the current partnership with FOX 28 has provided the SWC around \$1 million in free media coverage. She also mentioned working with Northtown Mall on an information booth/kiosk, which Mark Mattke (SWC CEO) also took a few moments to expand upon.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 9:28am by Kelley Charvet.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Full Board Spokane Workforce Council Meeting will be held in-person (and via Zoom) at the Ruby River Hotel, 7:30-9:30am, on February 8, 2023.