



MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 24, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Center for Health Education
740 SW 9th Street
Newport, OR 97365

Present:

Board: **Tony Erickson**, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Bryan Campbell**, DHS, VocRehab; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Rod Belisle**, NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center; **Terre Cooper**, Tillamook County Economic Development; **Amanda Morris**, Samaritan Health Service; **Linda Dugan**, Linda Dugan Insurance, Treasurer; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Birgitte Ryslinge**, Oregon Coast Community College; **Heather Clark**, Alterations by Heather

Consortium: **Doug Hunt**, Lincoln County Commissioner

Conference Call-In: **Cami Aufdermauer**, Tillamook County Habitat for Humanity; **Stephanie Hurliman**, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Whitey Forsman**, Pacific Oyster; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary; **Josh Kvidt**, Alyrica; **Ivan Castille**, Laborers Local 737; **Ann Buchele**, Linn-Benton Community College; **Henry Heimuller**, Columbia County Commissioner

Excused: **Henry Balensifer III**, LEKTRO;

Staff: **Heather DeSart**, NOW Executive Director; **Debra Smith**, NOW Program Manager; **Jason Swain**, NOW CFO; **Emily Schwartz**, NOW Office Manager

Guests: **Shawna Sykes**, Oregon Employment Department; **Erik Knoder** Oregon Employment Department; **Camille Padilla**, ResCare, Call-in; **Diana Nish**, ResCare; **Sandra Pickering**, ResCare; **Mark Sabin**, ResCare; **Karen Litvin**, Project Masters; **Jennifer Purcell**, Regional Solutions Coordinator; **Kathy Wilcox**, OWI, HECC, Call-in

1. CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF POSTING, AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Erickson called the Meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Chairman Erickson asked for confirmation of the public posting of the meeting; Emily Schwartz confirmed; Roll Call taken, and Quorum established.

Mr. Hawkins apologized for Commissioner Malone's absence as he was at a transportation meeting.



Ms. Dugan requested there be an explanation for the funds that had not been spent down (SYEP). Mr. Swain explained that the funds had originally expired in December, but the state had granted six more months to spend them.

Commissioner Hunt said that he would feel concerned if funds were not at 50% or more as NOW was halfway through the program year. Mr. Swain explained that for the Industry Engagement funds, a big chunk of that was obligated to Oregon Coast Community College's new welding program, so that 72% spending would drop more to where the board would expect to see. He went on to explain that the board should be reviewing where on the budget it shows the subrecipients results, and that those areas of spending should be at 50%.

Ms. Dugan circled back to the funds that got the extension and wanted to know why they hadn't been spent to this point and if they would be before June. Ms. DeSart explained that there had been issues with the parameters of the grant as well as with referrals from DHS. Chairman Erickson explained that it can be very difficult for workforce boards to spend their funding. Ms. Cooper asked if it would be possible to coordinate with other programs around the counties to help spend the money. Ms. Padilla explained that it is possible.

Ms. Dugan asked if the board returns grant funds at the end of the grant period, would it affect the board's chances of receiving funding in the future. Mr. Swain explained that it depends on the funder, but usually when it comes from the state, they will restructure the grants to make it work.

Mr. Belisle, who sits on the state board, explained that there is an understanding at the state level that if their funding to the local boards isn't being spent, then they probably need to reevaluate the parameters of the grants.

MOTION: John Hawkins SECOND: Rod Belisle MOTION CARRIED.

8. INFORMATION

Program Report and Update – Karen Litvin, Project Masters

Ms. Litvin explained the performance report and how it works.

Mr. Poole wanted to know if there were differences between the state wide and local goals. Ms. Litvin explained that there were no major differences. Mr. Poole then asked how something like a recession would affect the numbers long-term. Ms. Litvin explained that the main contributor is how much weight the NOW board holds in the state-wide pool.

Ms. Ryslunge requested breaking out the performance report under the headings of Invest. Innovate. Impact., from the strategic plan.

Commissioner Heimuller asked why the number of people employed were at zero and Mr. Kvidt wanted to know if the number for Dislocated Workers were actually that low in retention. Ms. DeSart explained that there was a supplemental hard copy program report that was brought to the meeting, but there were technical issues preventing staff from being able to get a picture to those



who called in. Ms. Litvin and Ms. Smith explained that there was a glitch in the Itrac system so some of the numbers were incorrect. Ms. DeSart explained that a new program report would be sent out as soon as possible.

Mr. Kvidt asked if the numbers were annual or quarterly goals. Ms. Litvin confirmed they were annual goals.

Mr. Belisle explained that he appreciates having goals and things the board feels they need to do, but realistically he understands that when someone walks into a WorkSource center, their needs are going to be served whether it aligns with the boards goals or not. Ms. Litvin confirmed that he was correct, and people wouldn't be turned away for the sake of meeting goals.

Ms. Dugan wanted to know if the board was sustainable with the goals. Ms. DeSart explained that an increase in resources in the local area is the most important for sustainability.

Mr. Poole asked what industry wide credentials were. Ms. Litvin explained that they change so the current ones would have to be researched.

Chairman Erickson requested that when the updated program report goes out, the board think about what else they would like to see on the report going forward.

9. INFORMATION

Program Success Stories – Diana Nish and Camille Padilla, ResCare, brought in two Success Story videos to present.

The first video was for Jerrod Liswig, an Adult participant who successfully went through the CDL training at Tillamook Bay Community College. Mr. Liswig passed the certification test on his first try and was employed immediately. There was no discussion.

The second video was for Payden Martin, a Youth participant who started going through the GED program after the mill she worked at was shut down. Ms. Martin expressed how much the program had helped her feel excited for the future and perusing her goals in writing and journalism. Mr. Sabin of ResCare expressed he is wanting to introduce Ms. Martin to his contact at a local news publication to help her get into journalism.

10. INFORMATION

Oregon Employment Department Economic Update – Erik Knoder and Shawna Sykes, OED

Presentation focusing on Lincoln County's main points included: Lincoln and Tillamook County's showed the biggest drop in unemployment since last year in NOW's local area. Along with this, wide job vacancies have dropped about 15% while northwest Oregon job vacancies had risen 25%.

11. INFORMATION

The State of Economic Development in Lincoln County – Commissioner Hunt



Commissioner Hunt gave an update on Lincoln County Economic update as the Director of Economic Development in Lincoln County had retired. He explained that the commissioners are working on deciding what Economic Development means in the county, but there will hopefully be a focus on housing. The county has applied and received a grant to help with the housing crisis and there will be continuing efforts to obligate resources to housing.

12. INFORMATION

The State of Oregon Coast Community College – Birgitte Ryslinge, OCCC President

Ms. Ryslinge’s presentation focused on the new welding accreditation program that would begin in February. So far the program has received overwhelming support, including funding from the board, and the first course already has a waitlist. She explained that the College’s new horizons included a new building, new courses, and new accreditation.

13. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chairman Erickson presented to the board that the Advanced Textile Initiative was receiving backing from Nike™, as well as being recognized as a noncredit course from Portland Community College. Chairman Erickson also mentioned that OMIC/PCC would be breaking ground/ribbon cutting on their new building on January 29th. The last item was second chance programs and to see if the board would want to branch into helping to fund programs that assisted those about to be released from prison to find jobs.

14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. DeSart would be sending an email out to the board to see if they would like their picture next to their name on NOW’s website and if they would like to have a link to their respective websites.

15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hunt reported on the meetings he had about funding and restructuring of the local boards. He went on to explain that after Benton County had submitted a request to the state to break off from NOW’s local area, he had expressed his interest in joining up with Southwest Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB) to their Chief Local Elected Official.

Ms. Dugan asked if Benton County was definitely leaving. Ms. DeSart confirmed that the issue was still under review at the state level, but there would be no definite restructuring before June 2021.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

There were no comments from the public.

17. ADJOURN

Chair Erickson adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.