



## MEETING MINUTES

### **ROGUE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

April 26, 2024

In-Person for 5-6 People & Zoom Conference Call

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

#### EX - OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Dotterrer

#### QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

#### OTHERS ATTENDING:

#### CALL TO ORDER

The RWP Workforce Board meeting was called to order by Brent Kell at 9:03 am.

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Rogue Workforce Development Board Members introduced themselves and the non-members roll was documented through the Teams meeting participants list.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

*The consent agenda groups routine, procedural, informational & self-explanatory items that aren't expected to require discussion. It's approved together in one action. Items may be moved out of the consent agenda for discussion at the request of any member.*

**Mike Card moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the January 26, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Marta Tarantsey. No discussion took place. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### WORKFORCE BOARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mike Card, Vice-Chair of the Rogue Workforce Partnership, and a member of the nominating committee gave an update on membership. **See Board Roster**. The workforce board is required to have 51% private business members. The roster shows three private member vacancies; however, Mike feels this is not correct as Dr. Weber is listed for both Community Based Organizations as well as WIOA Title II ABE and Higher Education. This would decrease the vacancies needed to two. Mike noted that we could have a larger or a smaller board, but the requirements stay the same. Mike will make another nomination to the Executive Committee of Alexandra Batzer. After the Executive Committee recommends appointment, then the RVWC will need to appoint her. Mike is taking suggestions for nominations for one more vacancy (really need someone from the tech industry). A question was asked about interest in the banking industry. Mike noted in his opinion, we want someone that hires a lot of people, and banking is not really a sector industry. Jim Teece from Project A was suggested. Kim asked about the two-county representation ensuring that someone from Josephine County is on the board. Mike noted that we have tried to recruit a couple different individuals from Josephine County; however, they were not interested. **Jaymes will get a list of potential Josephine County candidates to Mike and Heather.**

#### RWP BUDGET REVIEW

[Budget to Actuals Q3](#)

### WIOA

OED is projected to fully spend their funds.

It is likely that PY+ will roll some of their WIOA funds into the next year.

### WIOA Admin

Matt indicated that we have changed how we allocate expenses to WIOA admin. Instead of allocating to individual pools (Adult, Dislocated Worker, or Youth), we treat all WIOA admin grants the same and allocate first in, first out. This practice is consistent with other boards. In future budgets, WIOA Admin will be presented separately.

### DWG Wildfire

We were successful in spending all but \$100,000 in Wildfire funds and are still awaiting the DWG Quest contract.

### Good Jobs

RWP's share of the Good Jobs grant funds are underspent. This is a trend that will continue throughout the new year. An additional \$120,000 was allocated in client tuition and wrap-around services and OED is on track to fully spend out their additional funds.

### Future Ready (ARPA)

RWP recently awarded Future Ready funds to three sub-recipients. Programs will begin to roll out in spring or early summer. The transition of the ODHS JOBS contract has slowed implementation for two of our sub-recipients.

### Youth Employment

Both youth employment grants are unavailable until January.

We are very close to budget although providers are a bit underspent which is fairly typical.

WIOA Formula funds are about 10% under budget, government grants are about 8% under budget, and other various funds are 23% over budget which is a good thing. Careers in Gear did very good this year. Matt was able to visit for the first time this year, and indicated he has ideas to make it even better next year. Expenses by category do not differ much from last quarter. Haylee and Matt are working on some better graphic presentations that will be presented in the future.

Mike asked if Matt had thought about categorizing the budget by sector. Matt indicated that it has been tried previously; however he could not highlight our administration which is non-sector work. Trying to measure how we are doing our fiduciary duties and the needs of the industry in our community. Stephannie indicated that later in the presentation there will be a distribution split of client service investments by sector. Matt indicated we are collecting direct investment data by sector.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Policy Procedural Change

Mike Card moved to approve the procedural change as presented. The motion was seconded by Nannette Quitt and approved unanimously.

### Rapid Response Policy Revision

This change has come from a change in the HECC-OWI policy. How we deliver services to the community has not changed, but just aligning to the state policy.

**Mike Card moved to approve the Rapid Response Policy revision. The motion was seconded by Nannette Quitt and was approved unanimously.**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

### **Board Lunch & Learns**

Heather noted that there is an effort to gather more collectively in person, and that Board Lunch and Learns are another way to stay connected in between quarterly board meetings. Two have been held so far. In the future we also want to add some updates from each board member to the agenda. It was indicated that although members respond to calendar invites indicating if they will be attending, there is no way to say if they will be attending in person or remotely without having to send a separate email. **RWP will do some research and put something together to be able to determine if person will be attending in person.** Please send any suggestions for Board Lunch and Learn topics to Heather.

### **WIOA Reauthorization**

WIOA Reauthorization has been moved to the Senate. The House officially passed the committee's version that has a few key concerning elements for workforce boards. There is a 50% training requirement which doesn't give boards any flexibility to invest in wrap around services. Right now, we're spending about 30-35% for training. And would have to make up that 20% out of personnel and other things we do in the community or find other supplemental funding.

Another fundamental shift would be that the bill would allow the Governor's office to increase from 15% to 25% what they take off the top of workforce investments. RWP has been working to diversify away from our dependence on WIOA and are currently down to 41% dependence on WIOA from 90%.

This package provides for current service levels with a bump of 3% and then to stabilize for 5 years.

Brent indicated some work is being done looking at how the money is being distributed and looking at how other states are doing it to streamline processes. Hopeful there will be a recommendation from the Governor's office.

### **ODHS JOBS Implementation**

We have referrals, executed contracts, and service providers are out doing their good work. The exciting piece is the level of integration and blending and braiding we can provide with Title 1 and other sources. Working with 70+ family coaches in the Rogue Valley. The JOBS program is not showing in the current budget as we didn't have the funds until April 1.

### **RFQ for Career Pathway Training (Pre-Trades)**

There is an RFQ open (up to \$249,999) to look for a partner to build a pre-trades program. Had some early conversations and interest sparked from many sources so we did an RFQ to get the right trainer(s). The RFQ closes May 6, 2024.

### **Future Ready – Round 3 Grants**

Final round of funding for Technology, Manufacturing and Healthcare. Healthcare has \$18 million split into establishing nursing track program and anything else healthcare related. Technology \$10 million to look at incumbent worker upskilling of existing workforce, and innovation. Manufacturing \$12 million split into two tracks; upskilling the current workforce and pre-trades program. Should be launched in May and will be a 30-day window to apply.

## **Airport Training Academy**

This project has been in discussion for a couple of years. There is an opportunity to build a training academy. Some studies have been done and has been brought to the Jackson County Economic Development Advisory Council. Heather feels this is a viable project to explore. We fit in as a workforce board as convening the group and assisting in a feasibility study. The sustainable revenue model will be the key. Originally it was about training pilots but there is a shift in thinking to more of a diesel mechanic, airline pilot technician, etc. There is a small group that will do a feasibility study and bring back to the board. If it is decided that it is feasible, then we will move toward to raise money to build the building and recruit programs.

The Commissioners have made property available and will run the utilities to the space.

Scott Beveridge presented to this board recently the concept of a regional CTE center for high school students across the region. Center would be aligned with healthcare as the predominate need but then expanding. Other areas is diesel and aviation mechanics. Near the airport, Central Point, White City are all viable location options. Unclear if there is some synergy around building this building and the CTE center and could they feed into each other? There is an adult training program as well as youth training program. Scott would like to look at economic viability and what the jobs look like (local, state, and nationwide jobs).

Marta added that she has been involved in conversations about this over the past few years. At some point the conversations need to be put before people who build these kinds of schools.

Ken mentioned that Oregon Tech would be interested in helping any way they can.

## **REGIONAL ECONOMIC & LABOR MARKET REPORT**

See Quality Info website for additional data <https://www.qualityinfo.org/rogue-valley>

Guy Tauer presented his [quarterly update](#).

Historically low unemployment rates for all age groups.

Continuing to see more people retiring in the state.

Overall, the broad wide number of initial unemployment claims continue to remain low.

Most jobs back that were lost during the pandemic in the Rogue Valley – still a bit below February 2020.

Similar to Portland in terms of we are still down about 2% in our payroll jobs.

Wages have been increasing. Will see a bump in minimum wage in July.

About 5200 vacancies in the Rogue Valley in 2023 – similar to what we saw prior to the pandemic.

Analysis forecasts Oregon will gain 15,800 jobs over the next year.

Nike filed a WARN notice in April to lay off 740 workers; however, this information was not available during this reporting period.

Information was down 23% in Jackson County. Lost a lot of jobs in traditional media, print media, broadcast media, publications in general and tele-communications. Information security, software, internet related jobs will be adding jobs according to projections.

## **RWP STRATEGIC ROADMAP - UPDATES & COORDINATION**

### **Annual Overview of Sector Strategies**

Taking a deeper dive into the sectors. Will start with common goals and initiatives and then a dive into each sector.

A lot of what we do starts with the business need. Industry driven and industry lead.

Have seen a lot of value in the business-to-business networking especially in the manufacturing sector.

Trying to get into collaborative grant writing within the sectors. We are finding the more discretionary grants we can get, has a huge impact.

Focusing on youth engagement includes partnering with Karla Clark and PY+. Talks about internships with manufacturers with the youth and taking models that worked before and replicating them. Challenge is working with youth under 18 is that employers aren't willing to have onsite due to liability. Have some pending grants to entertain other options.

There is more need for work-based learning and engaging students after graduation.

Commissioner Dotterrer talked about a study that shows that about 20% of the student body in community colleges in Oregon is coming from high schools.

Heather indicated that we did just reconvene the Business Education Partnership which is an effort to look at those gaps and pathways and get the CTE and RCC directors in one room to see where we can plug in and get industry involved. There is also a great equipment and CTE expertise infrastructure at our schools all over the valley and we need to find out what it is and how it aligns with what the businesses are needing.

Heather talked about a committee (think tank) she was on with a lot of the university presidents for a study of strategic planning that the HECC is doing, and they did a poll of junior and seniors around Oregon asking them if a better use of their time would be vocational training or four-year college. Seventy-eight percent of those polled indicated vocational training.

Jaymes added that SOREDI is partnering with SOESD for their industry tours and making an extra stop into the regional high schools to see the CTE programs.

Mark Overbeck talked about OCOP (Oregon Council of Presidents) that brings the seven university presidents their government relations staff and other key leaders together. The Oregon Business Council (OBC) was the instigator of these meetings. At SOU they plan to continue the dialogue regardless of whatever happens with OBC about these conversations.

Mike commented that for all sectors, we are all working toward getting more grants. Recently looked at joining other sector partnerships in Douglas and Lane Counties to collaborate on grant writing. The Executive Committee is looking at getting sector chairs together and having a sector committee at the board level.

### **Reimagining WSRV – Youth and Adult Workforce Program Overview**

Jen Perry has successfully transitioned to Empower. There are two new program managers with PY+ Tobin Mikels and Michael Emanuel. Tobin covers Work Experience and Training Programs, and Michael is the WIOA program manager.

Careers in Gear 2024 had 148 exhibitors, 46 schools, and 1735 students participate. Also saw about 75 students who were independent from schools. Sponsorship levels increased this year to \$5000 for the platinum level.

A lot of positive feedback was received.

### **Program Funding – Grants Overview**

The biggest update to PY 23 revenue was the addition of the ODHS JOBS contract that went into effect on April 1, 2024. Waiting to hear on competitive strategies grant that centers around on ramp camps for youth as well as support behind the Business Education Partnership.

DWG Quest grant is still to be determined. Hoping will come into effect beginning of PY 24.

Statewide Youth initiatives is a supplement to WIOA Youth.

UI Benefit Navigator is also still pending.

Strategic Innovations is also still pending.

Pathway Home is centered around priority populations. Focused on re-entry services and post-release services within the Jackson County Jail and transition center. The concept is to have a career coach centered in the jail to work with eligible incarcerated individuals getting them connected to pre-release career services. Once released will work with the same career coach and connected with peer support through Reclaiming Lives to connect them to employment, training and barrier removal. Heather noted because many times the jail is impacted and individuals who may have had a 20 day sentence are released in 7 days, we have a very short window of time to work with them and could implement a new model like rapid response. The key is to have the employers who are willing to hire these justice involved individuals. Messaging for justice-involved individuals is vital. Stephannie added that OJT, WOTC federal bonding programs will be involved in the roll out with employers.

All this funding comes through the Rogue Workforce Development Board.

Looking at a healthcare specific grant that comes out in May and we will provide an update as we get more information.

Working on another one through Oregon Department of Forestry to support work experience in Natural Resources.

Mike encouraged RWP to discuss increasing capacity for grant writing and fund search.

Performance highlights include.

Stephannie pointed out total training investment dollars are down because we are leveraging our SNAP employment and training dollars through the State of Oregon.

Overall participant enrollment trends show we are continuing to serve a high number of people.

Looking to do work in building out dashboards to see dollar amount in investments made in sectors.

## **COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT**

A big push we have been doing is getting more involved with the Chambers of Commerce in the region.

Hosted the grants Pass greeters meeting and got in front of a lot of industry leaders about who we are and what we do.

Talking about hosting more greeters' meetings in the future and getting out into the smaller communities. Rogue Business Elevate social media and email campaign as well as more paid campaigns. Creating distinct communications for employers as well as employees.

Continuing to receive great success stories from our partners and want to get more video stories.

## **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES**

Heather encouraged board members to give updates.

Commissioner Dotterrer noted that he and Heather are in conversations with Josephine County about re-establishing a two-person Consortium. Heather indicated we are committed to finding a local solution.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

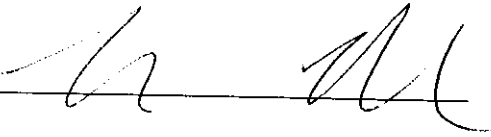
## **ADJOURN**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tami Allison  
Senior Project Manager  
/tka

APPROVED:

  
Chair

  
Date