



MEETING MINUTES

ROGUE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

February 7, 2025

In-Person and Teams Conference Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alex Batzer, Mike Card, Nick Carpenter, Terry Fairbanks, Ned Ford, Brent Kell, Joe Myers, Chris Pizzi, Nanette Quitt, Sherri Stratton, Marta Tarantsey, Kim Whitney

EX - OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHERS ATTENDING:

David Meador	<i>NIC Industries</i>
Peter Buckley	<i>Southern Oregon Success</i>
Bryan Oguri	<i>UA290</i>
Daniel Scotton	<i>SOCAN</i>
Jaymes Tadlock	<i>SOREDI</i>
Marc Overbeck	<i>SOU</i>
Julie Toledo	<i>RCC</i>
Guy Tauer	<i>OED</i>
Josh Hall	<i>AFL-CIO</i>
Bethany Osborn	<i>Integral Youth Services</i>
Jonathan Bilden	<i>Crater Lake Academy Charter School</i>
Noemi Salazar, Josh Morell, Joe Spagnuolo,	<i>WSRV</i>
Heather Stafford, Stephannie Krunglevich,	
Caylynn Reed, Tyler Worthley, Matt Fadich,	
Spencer McQueary, Tami Allison	<i>RWP</i>

CALL TO ORDER

The Rogue Workforce Development Board meeting was called to order by Brent Kell at 9:02 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.

Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2024

Ned Ford moved to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2024 Rogue Workforce Development Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Card. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Youth Service Provider Procurement

Heather and Stephannie discussed the need to change the current youth services provider due to persistent lack of performance and compliance issues. They emphasized the importance of streamlining compliance and program management to ensure effective use of funds.

Ned Ford moved to approve the Youth Service Provider Procurement. The motion was seconded by Nanette Quitt. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Workforce Board Members

- David Meador – NIC Industries
- David Dotterrer – Non-Profit Education Representative

Mike Card moved to accept David Meador and David Dotterrer as new Workforce Board members pending approval and appointment by the Rogue Valley Workforce Consortium. The motion was seconded by Marta Tarantsey. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Executive Committee – Has been working on recruitment, budget and youth programming in the last several meetings.
- Nomination Committee – Mike thanked David Meador and David Dotterrer for agreeing to join the workforce board and noted that we still have two business sector member positions to fill. Please contact Mike and Heather if you have any recommendations.
- Sector Committee – Tyler gave an overview indicating that RWP is re-evaluating some of the sectors and plan to convene a sector chair committee. A research group meeting has been scheduled to start work looking at sector data in the region and making sure we are still aligned with the needs of the region. The Rogue Business Elevate program is moving along well and is close to half obligated for the year. An information session has been scheduled for February 27, 2025 1-2 pm. Additional information will be sent out.
- Education Committee – Heather gave a brief update indicating that the SOELC is meeting and working on a mission and vision to create a brand for positive messaging around the collaboration of K-20 education.

AUDIT REVIEW

This item is being deferred as the audit is not complete. Matt will send the audit out when it is complete and the auditor will attend the next workforce board meeting.

RWP BUDGET

Matt presented the budget to actuals for the first half of the year highlighting that income was down by \$914,000 primarily due to under-budget direct client services. The net gain is \$171,665; however, our grants are reimbursable so over the long haul our grants will always net to zero.

Budget Modification

The proposed budget modification has a net change of only \$1304 in expenses. There are, however, some shifts between grant funds. JOBS increased by over \$300,000 after the year-end close out, while WIOA funds and Future Ready decreased by \$22,713 and \$69,440 respectively.

Discussion took place about the budget modification process and Matt confirmed that we are not changing any target or performance by modifying the budget. The biggest change is the shift between various grants. Matt voiced concerns about being able to expend the WIOA Youth funds as well as the JOBS funds.

The original budget included a new Business Services Coordinator position; however, after two failed searches and shifting priorities due to the WIOA Youth program, this was not filled. The proposed budget includes three youth program positions.

The Adult/Dislocated Worker program is about 20% under budget but is expected to catch up. The Youth program has significantly underspent client services and will not catch up. RWP will add youth provider contracts in Quarter 4 and is proposing to provide services directly. Additionally, RWP will contract directly with JOBS training providers instead of having OED contract with trainers.

Although proposed operating costs only changed by 6%, a general decline in operating costs was offset by a new contract for youth coordination.

RWP continues to decrease general administration costs. General administration costs are offset by direct charges to WIOA Administration and dedicated effort to define program costs where possible.

RWP is predicting a decline in WIOA program funds by \$258,277. More than half of the decline is due to underperformance in the youth program through the first half of the year.

The proposed transition of youth services will increase the allocation of administration to WIOA. Additionally, some costs this year (such as staff's Board of Director's work and monitoring) are being directly charged to WIOA administration instead of programs.

DWG Quest is a new grant this year and will increase the overall funding for dislocated workers by \$380,000 through September 2025. The grant funds are yet to be available to draw down from the HECC. As a result, we are shifting a portion of the grant into 2025-2026.

RWP's subrecipient partners have been slow to ramp up Future Ready services. This year's costs are being budgeted lower and next year's will be budgeted higher than expected. RWP expects to be able to add an additional provider for the final year of the contract.

JOBS final subrecipient billings were not submitted until after the budget was approved. April-June costs were well below budget, resulting in a shift of costs into the current year. Additionally, the 15-month JOBS contract was awarded with two full years of funding. Although we are budgeting to fully expend the contract, we may end the year below budget.

Ned Ford moved to approve the budget modification as presented. The motion was seconded by Mike Card. Kimberlee Whitney, JOBS service provider, and Sherri Stratton, OED service provider abstained from voting as to prevent an appearance of conflict of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

DEI Changes at Federal Level- Department of Labor [TEN 21-24](#).

There is a lot of confusion about what DEI is. Our board did not have a broad DEI statement that is communicated widely, and we don't have anything that we need to change. RWP is very conservative communicators, and we focus more regionally and share messages that are relevant to the programs we deliver. Heather indicated that some of the impacts could come around Future Ready. Heather indicated that RWP's leadership team is working through 3 different budget scenarios and noted that she is also concerned about the grant written for the EPA funds as this has not yet been contracted.

Heather indicated we are sensitive as some centers, primarily in the northern part of the state, ICE has been visiting centers and pulling DACA students and Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers checking for documentation and pulling people out of the country. As workforce centers, we are determining how to respond to this and how to train our staff to respond.

Funding Freeze – Immediately when the freeze was announced, the federal payment portal was shut down; however, it is now accessible as of yesterday.

House Bill 3029 – Heather provided an update on the legislative session, including House Bill 3029, which aims to institutionalize the Future Ready office as part of the Higher Education and Coordinating Commission. The Boards and others are working through this and are recommending changes. Heather asked that workforce board members read through the bill and send her any recommendations they may have. She also mentioned the board's own bills such as the:

- Prosperity Programs - \$50 million starting ask to streamline workforce investments around the state.
- ReEntry Bill #HB2972
- Transportation
- Maritime

Heather will be sending out a detailed email to board members explaining how their logos would be used in advocacy efforts and request their approval for logo usage.

RWP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Stephannie reviewed PY 24 Q1 and Q2 performance highlights.

Total participants for Q1 and Q2 appear to be quite low; however, it represents the reduction in youth participation and the close out of the disaster grants and a shift in how the state made changes to the required enrollment practices. Trainings started numbers are looking strong as well as in total training investments.

Healthcare and transportation remain our highest invested sectors.

- Early Childhood Education (ECE) Internship Project with SOESD, RWP and WSRV to address childcare workforce shortages. Noemi Salazar provided an update on the program which aims to address the childcare workforce shortage. She highlighted the success of the program, including the placement of six interns and the challenges faced, such as the need for more approved childcare centers. Collaborative funding is supporting 16 individuals with 150 hours of paid internships at \$15 per hour. Individuals gain hands-on experience in a licensed childcare environment. Interns receive professional development courses and additional certifications for careers in Early Childhood Education and higher wages. The goal is to meet employer needs by addressing critical workforce childcare services.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC & LABOR MARKET REPORT

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

Guy Tauer presented his quarterly update, discussing unemployment rates, labor force data, wage growth, and job vacancies. He also highlighted the importance of training and replacement needs in various industries, as well as new data showing many expected job vacancies in the next decade.

BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Mike Card talked about a student driver who only received a portion of his tuition for truck driver training and inquired about changes in funding and how they are communicated. Heather and Stephannie will send an email to the sector groups to inform them about changes in funding for training programs.

Jaymes Tadlock shared insights from a meeting with a restaurant owner in Ashland highlighting the challenges faced by the restaurant industry, including steady sales but increased costs of supplies and labor. He mentioned a survey being conducted in Grants Pass to understand the needs of restaurant owners.

Bryan Oguri praised the Southern Oregon Builds program, noting high attendance and positive feedback from participants. He emphasized the successful collaboration with the electrician's union and the impact on the local workforce.

Nick Carpenter recognized the efforts of Pacific Power linemen and contract crews working to restore power during the storm. He highlighted the challenges they face and the importance of their work in maintaining power infrastructure.

Upcoming Events:

- Pitch Night at the Medford Coworking Collective – February 12, 2025
 - SOREDI State of the Rogue Valley Annual Breakfast – February 27, 2025
 - Approaching AI Summit in Ashland – March 21-22, 2025
 - Southwestern Oregon Economic Development Summit – Canyonville – May 14-15, 2025
- Tours in Josephine and Coos Counties on May 13, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tami Allison
Senior Project Manager
/tka

APPROVED:

Brent Kell, Chair

[Signature]

Chair

Date