

MEETING MINUTES

ROGUE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

November 7, 2025

In-Person and Microsoft Teams Conference Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Person-Brent Kell, Mike Card, Sherri Stratton, Marta Tarantsey, Matt Holte, Dave Dotterer, Joe Myers, Nick Carpenter, Loren Brown, Christopher Pizzi, Randy Weber

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Dyer

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Bryan Oguri, Daniel Scotten, Shoshana Werblow, Guy Tauer, Chris Gilman, Foo Kok

Rogue Workforce Partnership- Stephannie Krunglevich, Sherri Emitte, Caylynn Reed, Tyler Worthley, Jim Gillespie, Melissa Leonard, Spencer McQueary, Kirstin Cronin, Lance Ross, Luis Rivas.

CALL TO ORDER

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

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.

Motion to approve Bryan Oguri both moved and seconded by Rick Dyer the sole member of the county consortium. The Board also voted unanimously yes, to approve the nomination.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Rogue Workforce Board introduced Stephannie Krunglevich as the Interim Executive Director and welcomed back Sherri Emitte as the Interim CFAO.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Rogue Workforce Partnership is currently being audited by the following governing bodies.

- The HECC
- KDP Sorren
- The DOJ

Brent specified that Rogue Workforce Partnership itself is not directly under investigation, this is specifically relating to an ongoing inquiry relating to former executives. If anyone has any questions,

Brent requests they call him directly for clarification. There is limited wrongdoing, no wrongdoing by Rogue Workforce Partnership that we know of.

He went on to share what the recruitment process might look like to fill the Executive Director and CFAO roles, asking what board members might be interested. Also with hopes that SOREDI might have input on the process.

Mike Card asked how the transition process went between Jim Fong to Heather Stafford, and was the search performed by him for his replacement. Sherri Emitte responded that the Board at the time knew Heather. Dave Dotterer confirmed that the Board chair at the time was Jessica Gomez.

Mike Card then asked if Rogue Workforce Partnership would be obtaining a search firm, or if this would be an internal process. Brent responded that ideally the search would be national as well as local, hoping to obtain staff input as well on what they need in an Executive Director. Mike asked if Veteran's would get preference, Marta responded that would require a policy stating as such.

Sherri Emitte responded saying a post would be made on Indeed as well as Linked-In and it would be a broad search. Brent confirmed that this would not be a rushed process, emphasizing the desire to find someone who would be the best fit. Rick Dyer asked if there was a due date, and how long Sherri Emitte would be willing to stay on.

Randy Weber asked what we might be looking for as far as input for the next Executive Director. Heather, prior to her departure was heavily involved with SOELC. This is a critical conversation relating to work-based leadership. What part of the process will allow us to contribute what we would like to see in the next Executive Director?

Creating a search coalition- This topic was brought forward by Dave Dotterer. Marta volunteered to be a member, so did Dave Dotterer.

Board Recruitment

Mike Card mentioned the fact that Nannette Quitt's recent resignation from both the board and Executive Committee leaves 2 seats that need to be filled. One on the Executive Committee and the other on the Workforce Board. This will need to be someone from the Private sector, cannot be a public sector individual.

Dave Dotterer said that he would be willing to approach David Meador about the Executive Committee seat. Mike responded that he would approach David, as he is the Vice Chair and responsible for recruitment.

2 more openings in the private sector which needs to be 51% of the Workforce Board total. Trying to find diversity in sector partnerships. Need more representation in the tech sector, looking at Work Sharp. Also looking to diversify regionally, with more Josephine County members. Architect, Rent Tech, C&G Home Loans, Snyder Creek Development are some of the people Mike has reached out to. Would like to have someone who hires a lot of people.

Jim & Tyler of RWP mention they have contacts at C&G, (Jim Campbell). Nikki just took over as treasurer for the Chamber. RenTech came to mind, (software development), Grants Pass. Architect in Ashland, Chris hires a diverse staff there and they're handling the Ashland middle school project for public works. Dave Dotterer mentions that RenTech is also heavily involved with SOREDI.

Mike mentioned a desire for sector leaders to be members of the board. The Chairman for each Sector partnership should be on the board, and we will be looking into that as well.

Tyler mentioned Mason Drake as a potential good fit from Worksharp. As he has expressed a keen interest in a lot of RWP's programs. Mike also expressed a desire to have the SOREDI chair back on our board again. Marta mentioned that Blaire, their current executive director might not have the bandwidth at the moment as they are at capacity, but that she has already started discussing this with them.

TARGET SECTOR UPDATE

Target Sector Recommendations, last time Tyler reviewed this with the Board we were working with RCC & SOREDI. Explaining that Horizontal sectors touch every part of business. Bringing this back before the board today for a potential vote. Childcare was addressed at the last meeting, seeing early success and don't see us as a convener but rather as a partner in that space.

The floor was opened to questions.

Mike asked for clarification of the structure of the sector partnership. He was under impression for workforce board to support critical industries, drives the spending of WIOA dollars. For us to select, vertical sectors are critical and horizontal sectors not so much? How do we determine where the money goes?

Tyler responded that horizontal sectors we have identified them as a need, in demand. Try to convene groups like that, such a broad group. We tried to convene tech, for 8 months and it just didn't happen. This allows us to make investments we identify as a need. Stephannie added that tech is duplicative. Transportation, HR, IT these are parts of your sector how can we cater to these needs?

Dave Dotterer asked if we want to keep them to a smaller number of sectors.

Rick Dyer asked what Business services in Construction looks like. Stephannie responded, Project management and HR.

Marta asked about childcare. The Governor's priorities, there is one that is on that slide, enabler so to speak (on the slide). Deprioritizing it as a vertical, resulting in misalignment from the current gubernatorial focus. Want to make sure we aren't letting the region down, in an era when the state is saying that isn't a priority. Want to make sure those tables presented; we don't shy away from it because we de-prioritized it.

Stephannie responded, because it was removed in prior iterations, with higher education. We understand to have workforce education; childcare is a part of that. We see ourselves not as the experts but as those who will go to the experts for guidance.

Mike, moved to accept the sector recommendation as Tyler as presented them. Brent seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Marta asked when will we revise this? When will we look at this again? Stephannie responded that RWP is in compliance mode right now. Local plan revisions will be presented at the next board meeting, the sectors haven't revised in 5 years.

Tyler says that by taking this approach we are trying to be more versatile. Huge asks for leadership & HR support. Trying to be more robust, this allows more flexibility.

Randy Weber asked if ECE money is prioritized how might we leverage workforce training if it's not identified as a sector? Stephannie responded, bring it here, doing work now through youth & adult programs for internships. Collaborative grant writing programs. Dave Dotterer asked, if workforce training would be one of the sectors.

5 identified sectors & in demand occupations.

Randy Weber added, perfect, if we could lean on that. Healthcare practitioners & healthcare support. Hospitality doesn't provide life sustaining wage.

Brent moves to vote, the ayes have it.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Higher Education Board cuts, possible impacts to workforce programs. Discretionary grants, not tied to WIOA. Actual reductions to be specified in the February session, Stephannie will send out updates as they become available.

Potential 2-5% cuts: WorkEx, Workforce Strategies, Industry Engagement. In preparation for strengthening America's workforce grant drive money for potential cuts. Sherri & Stephannie will keep this in mind when working together on next years budget.

Oregon Workforce Partnership – 9 workforce boards across the state, the Commerce Committee will resume prosperity funding across the state including Prosperity 10K, ARPA grants & Benefit Navigator, (reviving existing request).

Oregon's general fund – ROI – take someone off government subsidized grants

Over 700 participants in Future Ready including Crater Lake Electrical & Valley Immediate Care

Funds are huge resources, would like to see these continue to be available.

Dotterer: Same \$ the HECC, not the 15% peeled off for govt employees.

Mike mentioned how during the last session, the bills were really pushing, transportation was 1. Why don't we bring those back? Dave Dotterer reminded everyone there were 5 bills, only 2 we have to prioritize.

Marta: Couple sessions lunch & Learn : OWP lobbyist (plan for that ahead of time) so we can ask those questions.

Stehph: OWP developing toolkit for us.

Legislative Updates

Stronger workforce for America act (to replace WIOA) Unlikely to move forward in current session, June session more likely. As written, work-based learning, apprenticeship and training services. We are in a good position to build in those measures.

Modernization Project

Oregon is advancing a multi-year system rollout for the Oregon Employment Department. 2 years out from implementation. Improved longitudinal data, accessing longer term employment data, (propose to the board we might be able to acquire that ahead of time). We can access it now – customized request.

Cost barrier of accessing the system ahead of time: If we are interested in pursuing early access, we would reach out.

- \$10,000.00 for 5-year data set

Dave Dotterer asked if KPIS would fill that gap. Stephannie said yes, SSNs and outcomes included in the new verification system. Mike Card asked what \$10K would be for.

Staff capacity for that department.

Wait for the statewide rollout or pay \$10K to access the new system now.

Mike Card asked how confident are we that the \$10K will get us what we need? We need more information before proceeding. Dave Dotterer expressed he believed this would be well worth it for more solid data. Marta added that we should look into it now. If the state says 2 years, think more like 2+ years.

Sherri asked Stephannie, if after the initial conversation have you talked to other workforce boards about how they have used the data? Stephannie said the data sharing agreement w/iTrac, she didn't know any other board that had a direct relationship w/OED.

It was agreed, Rogue Workforce Partnership will investigate this further and bring information back to the board for a final decision before proceeding with the purchase for early access to the new system.

Government Shutdown Updates

Implications of SNAP benefit delays: OR dept of Human services, issue 100% of SNAP benefits as of today 11/7. Local leadership team met this week and will continue to keep an eye on this. Making sure the people we serve continue to have access to food. Dave Dotterer declared an emergency (Governor) held a meeting the other day.

Work Authorization Requirements

Impacts are small – DOL issued guidance basic & paid services. We've maintained requirements including WIOA, our compliance risk is quite low. We are still able to utilize other grants and programs when WIOA isn't an option.

WORKing Together

Lastly our team had the opportunity to attend WORKing together conference in Salem. The state's largest workforce conference. Over 500 attendees, hosted by 9 workforce boards.

BUDGET

[PY 25 Q1 Budget to Actuals](#)

Line-item budget actual. Revenue source (showing a large variance). Going to have those revenues soon. That deficit is a timing issue

The floor was opened to questions on revenue line items, there were none.

Expenditures

Personnel – 24%

Direct outside services – 10%

AmeriCorps – Budgeted 150K for internships (declined executing that contract) 1 year grant arrived late, leadership transition and required match. Heightened risk of success.

\$1.5 million for youth & client services

The floor was opened to questions on expenditure line items, there were none.

Operating costs

Outside services 16%

\$36,000.00 for Career's in Gear

Memberships & Dues (\$27,000.00 Oregon Workforce Partnership dues)

57% Business & Legal fees

Covering legal costs – haven't received actual costs (insurance will take those over)

The floor was opened to questions on operating cost line items, there were none.

Form of funds

WIOA 20%

DWG 87% (prioritized)

ARPA & Navigator funds also prioritized

Q3 pivot to WIOA

Governor's grant – we have not received the contract, still planning on going forward with that. It is a small 2-year \$150,000.00 pre-apprenticeship grant.

The floor was opened to questions about the form of funds.

Mike Card asked if Future Ready ARPA has a higher expense total, not revenue. As well as the budgeted expenses for that fund. Dave Dotterer followed up with by asking if it has to be spent by end of calendar year or the fiscal year.

Mike Card said the chairman mentioned a coming financial audit. In your opinion, what will they look at and cover? Are you concerned? Sherri Emitte responded no, she was not concerned. Things they will be looking very closely at will be 3 years of our GL accounts. They know what to look for. Another section of the firm will be forensic accounting. Not necessarily financial, more of another nature. She didn't foresee any huge problems. Stephannie added there will be 3 agencies looking at this data, (HECC, DOJ, KDP/Sorren).

Marta asked about YouthEx & WorkEx, that is \$100K how come? Stephannie said RWP is prioritizing DWG heavily throwing everything into ARPA. We'll see elevated spending throughout that grant. Spent out by Q3 even though it goes through Q4. Marta asked who our contracts with through that grant. Stephannie responded OED and SO Youthworks.

RWP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PY25 Q1 in Review

- Medford: 8,096 Office Walk-Ins & 1,902 iMatch Skills Registrations
- Grants Pass: 4,761 Office Walk-Ins & 1,049 iMatch Skills Registrations

Overview of award thresholds

- \$3,500 Standard Award per participant – Exceptions allowable (\$10,000 maximum)
- Target Sector & in-demand occupation alignment
- Funding may be more limited in Q4
- Co-enrollments & Supplemental programs may factor into awards (Pell/STEP/etc)

Rogue Business Elevate

- On the Job Training (OJT)
 - Wage reimbursement for new hires or internal promotions
 - Supports development of skills needed for jobs
 - \$3,500-5,000 reimbursement range
- Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)
 - Upskilling for existing employees
 - Helps retain talent and avert layoffs
 - Reimbursement based on employer size (90%|75%|50%)
- Youth Work Experience
 - Paid Work Experience for youth ages 16-24
 - Wages and workers completely covered
 - Placement runs 5 weeks to 6 months

Rogue Business Elevate Eligibility

- OJT
 - Addresses a verifiable skills gap
 - Includes a structured training plan with outcomes
 - Leads to advancement when internal
- IWT
 - Leads to advancement, wage gain, or retention
 - Strengthens employer competitiveness or expansion
 - Uses credible training provider
 - Training length matches skill need
- Youth Work Experience
 - Safe & compliant worksite
 - Skill-building & real career exposure
 - Participant is prepared and supported
 - Clear mutual benefit to both youth & employer

Rapid Response Activity

As of last week, there has been increased activity, there have been stress indicators in the community.

- A couple of major reductions and one closure
- Confidential so Tyler could not share any further details at this time

Southern Oregon Youth Works

120 Individual referrals: 118 total trainings started: \$320,500 total Training Investments

24 Approved worksites: 16 Worksite with placements: 7 Worksites in active recruitment: 26 Youth placed in Work-based learning activities

Youth Innovation Fund

6 approved proposals :13 proposals received :3 under review: 41 participants received: \$90,000 invested

Future Ready Update

Leveling up with other boards in the state

- 83% of our goal, higher than state target of 72%
- Women served 65%, highest in the state
- Successful exits, target 80% actually 91%

Employment rate: 80%, higher than 73%

Mike Card asked if this is based on \$17 an hour wage, not measured on FT or not correct? Caylynn responded that was correct.

Future Ready spotlight: Valley Immediate Care

3 cohorts

Golden Rule Reentry- Southern Oregon Builds.

Reavis Renos – Women owned company

Crater Lake Electric: Still investing – governor’s grant (apprenticeship programming) possible spring to bring back those cohorts.

OED Work source RV: Program year 2022 – 536 participants (career coaching unpaid service)

SO Youth Works: High enrollments w/Workex

Prosperity plan funding: Budget, resources pivoting towards ARPA

DOL pathways Home: incarcerated participants reentering our area

- Grant ends in 1yr

REGIONAL ECONOMIC & LABOR MARKET REPORT

Guy Tauer: Repeat of the greatest hits

Haven’t had new data 2nd month now, tried to come up with a few new songs.

No current unemployment rates

Worksharp CEO, one of his ski coaches in Ashland

Slight decline in overall economic activity -0.74

Heading that way as of August

As of August, unemployment rates

- Jackson 5.4
- Josephine 7.1

As of August, 111,900 number of unemployed in Oregon

People are job hugging – not jumping from job to job

Employment growth 1.2% (Salem)

Trend in core jobs

RV core jobs (all jobs that exclude govt & healthcare)

Agriculture & self-employment excluded as well.

Jackson county business applications are up 2.2%

Josephine county business apps up 3.6%

No planned paid employment has been climbing

Data from Light cast – online job demand (June 2025)

MFR metro was 4,300

Unemployment insurance claims, first 3 weeks in Oct

New filing initial claims

940 claims Jackson County (643 same 4 weeks last year

Josephine County 374 compared to 249 same week last year

Continued claims:

- Jackson Sept 1156 (1020 in 2024)
- Josephine 485 (397 in 2024) 22% increase

Trends in job vacancies

First 3 quarters 2025 (sample size)

- Jackson 1100
 - 12000 (up 1500)

Rogue Valley – 3265 (summer 2025)

Employment & wages

200% increase (healthcare) from 2019-2025 healthcare

Computer-tech dropped 40%

28K jobs over next year (cooked into states revenue and budget forecast)

Down over 14K as of August

Growth – Business & technical services top growth sector

Rick Dyer added that core employment is stable, healthcare vacancies remain high. Government jobs account for most of the jobs lost. Because of contraction in government hiring? Not so much of an economic force? Guy responded that budgets will be tight, the government sector will take a while to catch up with the private sector. He did an article on govt employment. Not showing up in the claims #'s. Still able to collect some salary, won't show up in claims data, might not show up in claims data quite yet.

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Careers in Gear 2026

The registration link has been emailed

NAWDP Youth Symposium in New Orleans

Jim Gillespie and Spencer McQueary will be presenting at this conference in several weeks

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Leonard
Executive Admin & Financial Coordinator

APPROVED:

Chair

Date