

MEETING MINUTES
Forum of County Commissioners
Thursday, July 13, 2023 ~ 11:30 AM

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Aging & Adult Care
270 9th St NE, East Wenatchee, WA

Commissioners Present: Chris Branch, Dan Sutton, Jay Weise, Danny Stone

1. Introductions

Commissioner Jay Weise from Adams County replaces Terry Thompson on the Forum. Welcome Jay!

2. December 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Danny Stone moved and Dan Sutton seconded to approve the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

3. Workforce Area Budget 2023-24

Area wide executive and service delivery budgets for 2023-24 were presented. Fiscal Director, Laura Leavitt, reviewed federal/state allocation methods that delineate how the federal formula grants amounts are determined. Factors including # of unemployed, # of excess employed, # of economically disadvantaged are a few of the factors that determine the amounts granted to each county. Commissioners asked insightful questions about changes in funding levels and Dan Sutton expressed interest in having a one-page overview of the scope of the different grants what they can be utilized for. Lisa reviewed the primary changes in the four budgets: one Executive and three service delivery budgets with the Commissioners. The SkillSource Regional Workforce Board approved all four at their June meeting. *Danny Stone moved and Jay Weise seconded to approve all four 2022-23 budgets. Motion passed.*

4. Governance Documents

The Joint Powers Agreement expired June 30, 2023. This document outlines the respective roles and responsibilities of the Forum, the Local Board and SkillSource. No changes are recommended other than to extend for another five-year period. *Dan Sutton moved and Danny Stone seconded to approve a five-year extension to the Joint Powers Agreement through June 30, 2028. Motion passed*

5. Regional Workforce Plan 2024-2028

Lisa reviewed the strategic priorities of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board's (WTECB) four-year State plan known as Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) Plan. Top priorities will be system integration, supporting businesses, improving opportunities for youth, exploring credential reform, and developing a job quality framework. Members and staff of the state workforce board will be visiting local areas over the next year to collect local perspectives and priorities.

6. Direct Delivery Request

Lisa gave an update on North Central's request to deliver services directly. Workforce Innovation Act provides local boards the discretion to directly deliver career services for Adults and Dislocated workers with agreement between the Chief Elected Official (Forum) and the Governor. Washington State requires local boards to complete a request for approval. Upon action of the Forum and the Regional Board, SkillSource submitted this request on May 25, 2022 and received a response letter

April 21, 2023 indicating an approval to directly deliver career services through the life of the current local plan, but that competitive procurement is expected thereafter.

Lisa is working with the state policy group to help revise the guidance to clarify the process and advocate the state workforce board maintain consistency with federal statute affording local boards the discretion to directly deliver career services. Commissioners discussed and asked questions about what the regulations allow; and ultimately remain supportive of direct delivery which has proven to maximize efficiency and minimize costs while maintaining some of the highest levels of performance outcomes and resource utilization in the State. Lisa will keep the Forum apprised in the coming months.

7. Board Member Vacancies

Currently the Regional Board has two vacancies as a result of Dimitri Mandelis' expired term and Peggy Vine's retirement. Work is underway to identify interested and qualified successors.

8. Adjourned at 1:05pm