

**SkillSource Regional Workforce Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2025  
Via Zoom**

Zach Williams, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm following a round of introductions.

**June 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

***Augustine Gallegos moved, and Sara Thompson Tweedy seconded, to approve the minutes for the June 24, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion passed.***

**Director's Report**

Lisa welcomed the board members present and summarized the agenda, including the consent agenda items. Lisa updated the board on the House appropriations bill that had just voted out of committee as the agenda came out. This bill would have slashed Title I grants by 65% and eliminated several programs. The Senate rejected this bill after it passed the House along party lines, and the federal government looks headed for a shutdown. Sara asked how a shutdown might affect operations; Laura responded that funds may continue to be drawn based on signed grant agreements. SkillSource's Adult and Dislocated Worker grants that are due to be released on October 1 may be affected, but all other funds are accessible. In the worst-case scenario, SkillSource can also dip into savings as needed. Planning is underway at the state level to prepare for a likely shutdown scenario.

Lisa continued with highlights on strategic goal progress. She briefly outlined the new Pathways Home 6/RESET re-entry grant, which will extend services to incarcerated individuals in Chelan County. Rep. Brian Burnett will visit SkillSource Wenatchee on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will meet several participants. Hill Climb is in January and Lisa will send out information if any board members are interested. The SkillSource Recognition Banquet will be on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> in Wenatchee; Governor Ferguson may choose to attend. She concluded by briefly summarizing the business and engagement report, including the WWA Peer to Peer convening and the next round of Community Reinvestment small business grants.

**Consent Agenda – PY25-26 Budgets and Policy Updates**

The agenda listed the following items as consent agenda items which were discussed and recommended for approval by their respective sub-committees.

- PY25-26 Executive Budget
- Okanogan PY25-26 Service Delivery Budget
- Grant/Adams PY25-26 Service Delivery Budget
- Chelan/Douglas PY-25-26 Service Delivery Budget
- Policy Updates (Youth Eligibility Directive and State EcSA/Community Reinvestment Directive)

***Nate Mack moved and Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.***

### **Guest Presentation: John Traugott, Washington Workforce Association (WWA)**

Lisa introduced John Traugott, executive director of WWA. John started his career at SkillSource at 2009 with the Youth program. John commended SkillSource for consistently high performance and leadership among the local workforce development boards, and Lisa specifically for advocacy for board autonomy in respect to state policy. WWA is a nonprofit member association whose board is comprised of the 12 local board CEOs and has a staff of two plus contracted support. Lisa will assume chair duties of WWA in 2026. WWA's activities include advocacy and policy work, program and partnership development and support, and professional development and technical assistance, in partnership with the local boards. Their goal is to improve partnerships, increase funding and promote local flexibility. Recent focus areas for the association include the Community Reinvestment project and Economic Security for All; John recapped efforts for those initiatives. He described legislative advocacy and communication efforts at state and federal levels, and reiterated Lisa's comments about the 2026 federal budget proposals. Sara thanked John for all his work and advocacy; Zach acknowledged Lisa for her work and congratulated Lisa on her appointment as WWA chair.

### **Workforce Investment Year End Performance Report: PY24-25**

Aaron presented the annual performance report. In Program year 2024-25, SkillSource received 6% of the state federal formula allocation and achieved 109% of its federal performance targets, which tied for third statewide. Aaron summarized outcomes for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. He updated the board on work-based learning activities, which continue to increase year over year; SkillSource led the state in these activities last year. Aaron also summarized the impact of the Economic Security for All and Community Reinvestment programs, which issued \$1.66 million in incentives and Matched Savings to participants in the program year. SkillSource's EcSA participants exceeded target outcomes for entering employment at self-sufficiency and above 200% of the federal poverty level. He concluded with a brief overview of ongoing and planned initiatives. Sara and Augustine commended Lisa and the staff for this year's performance. Pablo applauded the great job engaging job seekers and local employers to lead the state in work-based learning.

### **Communication, Outreach & Engagement Report**

Kelli updated the board on communication initiatives since her last report in June 2024. This past year, Kelli and Jazmin worked on refining, clarifying, and creating awareness. Several core communications applications such as the monthly board newsletter, quarterly staff update, and success story and media outreach rhythms are well established. The SkillSource website has been overhauled and upgraded to improve clarity, access and usability for customers and staff; work continues to improve the user experience. This year saw the launch of the "Thrilled to be Skilled" campaign and the relaunch of the annual Impact Report. SkillSource has been a consistent presence at community events to engage the public and local organizations. Kelli recapped the various media outlets with whom she engaged over the past year to provide clear and targeted messaging, communications' impact on advocacy efforts at the local and state levels, and SkillSource's ongoing social media strategy that integrates with other messaging. Kelli ended with a call to action for the board members to continue their support to amplify the message. Zach commended Kelli for energizing and growing engagement in the community.

Lisa oriented the board members to the results of the interactive activity at the June board meeting, and said that she and the staff are looking forward to more opportunities to convene board members for further exploration of strategic themes.

The board meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

**In Attendance:**

Ryan Beebout  
Augustine Gallegos  
Julie Helligso  
Tad Hildebrand  
Roni Holder-Diefenbach  
Nate Mack  
Brant Mayo  
Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde  
Sara Thompson Tweedy  
Pablo Villareal  
Zach Williams  
Todd Wurl

**Not In Attendance:**

Randy Curry  
Crystal Gage  
Faimous Harrison  
Ken Johnson  
Kyle Niehenke  
Anthony Popelier  
Michelle Price

**Staff in Attendance:**

Lisa Romine  
Susan Adams  
Laura Leavitt  
Aaron Parrott  
Christy Mataya  
Dana Osterlund  
Kelli Martinelli  
Toby Haberlock  
Heidi Lamers  
James Beck  
Alicia Wallace  
Juan Martinez  
Lisa Bauer  
Mayra Eaton-Garcia

**Guest:**

John Traugott (WWA)