



LANE WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 24, 2022
3:00PM – 5:00PM

MINUTES

In Attendance:	Jennifer Adams, Alan Benavides, Sabrina Cunliffe, Julie Davidson, Solomon Harris, Phillip Hohnstein, Shondra Holliday, Shaun Hyland, Scott Littlejohn, Josh McClaughry, Jeff McGillivray, Grant Matthews, Margaret Theisen, Laura Vinson, Teri White
Absent:	Travis Brooke, Fiona Gledhill, Bettina Hannigan, David Heavirland, Katie Jeremiah, Bailey McEuen, Celeste Marshall, Sarah Means, Stephen Parac, Stan Pickett, Tony Scurto
Board Staff:	Ashley Espinoza, Anne Nestell, Tiffany Cink, Cindy Perry, Lyle Lang, Stephanie Lovell
Others:	Iris Chavez, Doug Riggs, Rachel Soto, Lisa Mills

Action Summary	Motion	Seconded	Status
Approved Full Board meeting minutes September 23, 2021	Margaret Theisen	Shondra Holliday	Unanimous Approval

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Adams called the meeting to order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Iris Chavez and Doug Riggs from Equity Action Partners attended the meeting to provide an update on workforce legislation happening during the short session. Equity Action Partners is a public affairs firm specializing in community engagement, policy and legislative analysis, government relations and strategic communications in the public sector and social justice sector.

In collaboration with Representative Jeff Reardon, Equity Action Partners started this legislative session working with the nine workforce board Executive Directors from around the state to develop a legislative concept. From these meetings, they arrived at a legislative concept (Prosperity 10,000) that would provide funding to local workforce investment boards to enhance and expand work that is being done at the local level.

Around the same time, the Governor and the Racial Justice Council's Workforce Subcommittee were also in the process of developing a large funding proposal focused on workforce (Future Ready Oregon). It was recognized that in a short session there is a limited amount of time and bandwidth available so there became a desire to streamline the concepts into one bill. After much conversation, Future Ready Oregon (Senate Bill 1545) was amended to include the workforce boards piece of

legislation (House Bill 4104). They are now one piece of legislation moving forward together. The workforce boards concept differed from Future Oregon Ready in that the funds will be fast-tracked to the field. With Future Ready Oregon, the timeline ranged from 6 months to 12 – 18 months and would have involved creating Requests for Proposals or adding another layer of bureaucracy. The workforce boards are providing a known quantity – successful programs, existing partnerships, and dollars that can be effective immediately.

Last week, Senate Bill 1545 passed out of the Senate Labor and Business Committee and yesterday it passed unanimously from the Subcommittee on Education, Ways and Means Committee. Tonight, the bill is pending on the Full Ways and Means Committee agenda. We fully expect the bill to pass out of the Ways and Means Committee where it will then go to both the senate and house floors for vote where it is also expected to pass. Following the senate and house vote, it will go to the Governor for signature. There will be approximately \$200 million dollars allocated to roughly 12 different programs. Workforce boards will receive their funding (based on the WIOA formula) within 60 days. This is a big victory for the workforce boards.

Margaret Theisen asked what period of time does the funding need to be utilized. Mr. Riggs said that the money local workforce boards will receive comes from two categories – \$15M from general funds (can be matched through SNAP 50/50) and \$20M from ARPA funding (cannot be matched and must be spent by the end of 2024). There is also \$9M - 10M in ARPA funding for the navigator roles. The goal is to see how this goes and come back in the 2023/2025 biennium budget discussion and see if there is an opportunity to keep a lot of these programs going.

Tiffany Cink noted that early projections show approximately \$6M - \$7M dollars coming to Lane Workforce Partnership – about double our yearly budget. We are confident that we have great providers locally that are doing great work and we can get things moving quickly. Ashley Espinoza said that we are confident that we will be able to build out the capacity and infrastructure to invest meaningfully in the work.

Ms. Theisen asked if the intentions are to provide larger distribution to those partners who are currently contracted with Lane Workforce Partnership or will there be additional Request for Proposals. Ms. Cink responded that we have not made any final decisions. She does not foresee a formal Request for Proposals as that process takes quite a bit of time.

Ms. Theisen noted that she was in a meeting yesterday with a number of non-profits. There was a very strong voice from the non-profits that one-time money can be much more problematic than it can be helpful, especially if targeted for specific activities. Mr. Riggs said that there might be some synergy between community-based organizations that we are already working with and new community-based organizations where we might be able to help them with this issue.

Sabrina Cunliffe asked about the navigator roles and whether or not these individuals will know about each other and work together. Mr. Riggs said that the navigators will be based at the one-stop centers. To the extent that regions have that one-stop center, it becomes much easier to coordinate and eliminate redundancies. Putting these navigators in with a local workforce board who already works with its community partners will allow the navigators to be brought up to speed more quickly.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

Margaret Theisen made a motion to approve the September 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Shondra Holliday seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

V. LWP MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT AND FINAL 2020 YEAR-END PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cindy Perry and Ashley Espinoza reviewed the Lane Workforce Partnership Workforce System Mid-Year Performance Report. This document outlines the current strategic plan with goals and strategies and all the performance measurements related to the goals and strategies.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Board Action Items
 - Ms. Adams reviewed board action items and highlighted the Executive Director transition action item from the November Executive Board meeting. Ashley Espinoza was appointed Interim Executive Director effective January 1, 2022.
 - The general operating budget modification #1 was adopted at the last Executive Board meeting held February 17.
- Executive Director Transition

The Executive Committee is having regular conversations with Ms. Espinoza so that we can all get to know each other better. It is also providing us with an opportunity to understand the things that she is working on and how we can best support her. We have continued to retain Kristina Payne in a contract capacity to mentor and guide Ms. Espinoza in her new role.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was noted.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Adams adjourned the meeting.