



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

AGENDA

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team
March 24, 2020
2:00 pm – 3:30

Conference call information:
1.541.465.2805, code: 730943#

- I. Introductions of Call Participants
- II. Review of the Governor’s “stay home save lives” Executive Order – Annette Liebe

https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-12.pdf

The Governor has issued a “remain at home” order. To clarify, the only businesses forced to close are those specifically listed. Rather than establishing an essential businesses list that are exempt from the order, the Governor chose to list businesses required to closed. All other businesses can remain open **provided** they have the ability to maintain social distancing.

- III. Emergency/Temporary Unemployment Insurance rules, overview and discussion, are there remaining gaps? – Employment Department

Fact Sheet (attached)

Meeting Summary from sub-committee discussion (attached)

Sub-group identified two gaps:

- 1. Need coverage for sole proprietors and self-employed people; and
- 2. Need coverage for the entire period of the layoff

- IV. Priorities for short term investment (\$5 M), overview and discussion – Annette Liebe

Meeting Summary from sub-committee discussion (attached)

Quick recap:

- 1. loans should be used creatively to phase in repayment, from no payments in the beginning to interest only to principal plus interest at the tail end of the loan. This has been used in Lane County effectively
- 2. non-traded sector companies make up 90% of the local economy and those may be permanently damaged if they don’t receive help. Others agreed that small businesses and sole proprietors need help the most, as traded sector will recover more quickly once economic recovery starts to happen. Another comment was that the fund should prioritize rural communities and/or small towns.

- V. East Cascades Works – Heather Ficht
Oregon Workforce Partnership policy recommendations (attached)
Short term layoff aversion funds
- VI. Regional organization structure, do we need two groups, frequency of meetings, etc.
- VII. Adjourn



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MEETING SUMMARY

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team
March 24, 2020
2:00 pm – 3:30

Conference call information:
1.541.465.2805, code: 730943#

- I. Participants:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Rep. Reschke | Rep. Breese-Iverson |
| Annette Liebe, Governor's Office | Larry Holzgang, Business Oregon |
| Damon Runberg, Employment Dept | Kim Laugsand, Employment Dept |
| Randy Cox, KCEDA | Betty Riley, SCOEDD |
| Kat Rutledge, SBDC | Maj. Jackson, Kingsley Field |
| Jim Chadderdon, Discover Klamath | Heather Tramp, Klamath Chamber |
| Heather Ficht, East Cascades Works | Comm. Minty-Morris, Klamath Co. |
| Comm. DeGroot, Klamath Co. | Nathan Cherpeski, City of Klamath Falls |
| Comm. Albertson, Lake Co. | Comm. Winters, Lake co. |
| Jacob Egler, Sen. Wyden | Darin Rutledge, Klamath Downtown Ass. |
| Penny Newton, KCC | Greg Svelund, DEQ |
| Sheri Stuart, OR Main St. | Theresa Yoshioka, ODA |
| Jarod Johnson, ODOT | |

- II. Review of the Governor's "stay home save lives" Executive Order – Annette Liebe
https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-12.pdf

Annette reviewed the governor's executive order known as "Stay Home, Save Lives" that was issued March 23. Businesses not specifically called out in the order can remain open if they can ensure social distancing, with a person designated to ensure compliance. The state does not have a termination date, though the state will review epidemiological data to make a decision on the duration.

Rep. Reschke said it would be helpful to know the data that goes into that model and how the determination is made. He said he would like to provide guidance to businesses who inquire about the length of the executive order, while acknowledging that it's changing day to day. More transparency would be helpful here. Annette indicated that she will seek to obtain information on metrics/thresholds re: decision making on when to end the restrictions in the EO. Annette also said she would answer further questions on the order as they come to her.

III. Emergency/Temporary Unemployment Insurance rules, overview and discussion, are there remaining gaps? – Damon Runberg, Employment Department

The department recently changed requirements and language to loosen restrictions on who can qualify from unemployment insurance. All employees not working due to COVID-19 are now considered able and willing to work for application purposes. Another change was on the actively seeking work language, which was also eased to expand coverage. Benefits are determined by a calculation, available online, and current benefits range from a minimum of approximately \$150 to a maximum of approximately \$650. Applicants are encouraged to use the online application form. If an applicant's sole income comes from a sole proprietorship business, they are not currently eligible for benefits. The state has heard about the need to expand coverage to sole proprietors and the legislature could consider policy around this.

Randy Cox asked whether childcare workers who are still working (or on personal leave with their current employer) could remain working while also collecting unemployment insurance if they provide childcare for first responders and medical professionals. Annette committed to following up.

The Committee acknowledged that the changes are a step in the right direction. They agreed with the economic development sub-committee assessment of remaining gaps:

1. Need coverage for sole proprietors and self-employed people; and
2. Need coverage for the entire period of the layoff

IV. Priorities for short term investment (\$5 M) – Annette Liebe

The Committee agreed with the economic development sub-committee's assessment of where state flexible funds are needed most:

- loans should be used creatively to phase in repayment, from no payments in the beginning to interest only to principal plus interest at the tail end of the loan. This has been used in Lane County effectively
- non-traded sector companies make up 90% of the local economy and those may be permanently damaged if they don't receive help. Others agreed that small businesses and sole proprietors need help the most, as traded sector will recover more quickly once economic recovery starts to happen. Another comment was that the fund should prioritize rural communities and/or small towns.

Commissioner DeGroot suggested the greatest need was protecting sole proprietors.

V. East Cascades Works – Heather Ficht

Heather Ficht described the layoff diversion emergency funds recently received from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. While there are limited funds and the focus is on existing Rapid Response customers, anybody interested in this program in Lake or Klamath counties should go to the Chamber websites in Lake and Klamath Counties. Funds, mainly for technology upgrades, are available for sole proprietors as well as other businesses. The funds are not yet available, though the East Cascades Works is preparing internally and streamlining the process so the money can be allocated quickly when it arrives.

Oregon Workforce Partnership policy recommendations (attached)
Short term layoff aversion funds

VI. Regional organization structure, do we need two groups, frequency of meetings, etc.

VII. Adjourn