



# Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB)

## Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2020  
1:00 PM -4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting [Web link here.](#)  
Conference call: **1-929-229-5751**  
Conference ID: **160 734 538#**

**Members Present:** Ken Madden (Chair), Anne Mersereau (Vice Chair), Brenda Bateman, Rod Belisle, Jana Bitton, Craig Campbell, Jody Christensen, Lauren Corbett, Bridget Dazey, Senator Michael Dembrow, Patty Dorroh, Shari Dunn, Christian Gaston, David Gerstenfeld, Douglas Hunt, Julie Lewis, Mark Mitsui, Soundharya Nagasubramian, Marc Overbeck, Keith Ozols, Dwain Panian, Debbie Radie, Cathy Reynolds, Melinda Rogers, Jimmy Swanson, Senator Kim Thatcher, KS Venkatraman, Laurie Cremona-Wagner, Chelsea Watson

### Standing Business

#### 1.0 Meeting Begins

1.1 Chair Madden brought the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

#### 2.0 Public Comment

No public comment.

#### 3.0 Consent Agenda

**Action Item:** Vice Chair Anne Mersereau made a motion to approve the AI Taskforce Minutes for 3/4/20, 5/5/20, 6/2/20. Bridget Dazey seconded. Motion passed.

**Action Item:** Patty Dorroh made a motion to approve the WTDB Exec Minutes for 3/3/20, 4/15/20, 5/20/20 with a change to be made to the May Minutes needing to be labeled as "Meeting Minutes. Rod Belisle seconded this motion with the changes proposed. Motion passed.

**Action Item:** Vice Chair Anne Mersereau made a motion to approve the Essential Employability Skills Taskforce Minutes for 5/26/20. Craig Campbell seconded. Motion passed.

### Workforce Development System

#### 4.0 WTDB Leadership

4.1 Interim Director of the Oregon Employment Department, David Gerstenfeld, introduced himself and gave a brief update on his plans for moving forward at OED. They are currently focused on the Unemployment Insurance Department and processing claims. He recognized the impact that the lack of unemployment checks going out has greatly impacted Oregon's unemployed workforce, and communities of color. He then took questions, at which time Venkat offered his background with the technology field to assist/review plans for future development for the OED modernization efforts and upgrading their software.

Labor and Workforce Policy Advisor to the Governor, Christian Gaston discussed the caution recently exercised due to COVID-19 by the Governor related to reopening and moving between phases. There was an increase in cases, so in order to prevent the spread, lockdown will continue in some areas for another week, and then the phased-opening strategy will continue as determined by individual county. He also brought up a committee hearing that will bring funding to workforce related issues, and encouraged the board to prepare for short session.

4.2 Director Todd Nell gave his report which included the following:

- Reviewed the 2020-2021 WTDB Strategic Plan, and that there has been good progress despite COVID-19 and better alignment partnering across the workforce system.



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- Provided update on WTDB website taskforce which will be started soon with the goal of increasing awareness of the system through a more strategic and value-added website. This website will provide a more efficient connection to the workforce system for businesses and employers, and job seekers.
- Provided a shout out to Venkat for his offer to assist OED, and how it relates directly to the WTDB goal of increasing public/private partnerships mentioned in the Strategic Plan.
- Noted that Michelle Janke with Coraggio Group will be joining the next WTDB Executive Committee meeting in July. This work is focused on holding the WTDB accountable and on track towards achieving their goals and imperatives called out in the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan.
- Provided an update on the 21-23 Policy Option Packages, and recommended that the board sends a letter to Ben Cannon and the HECC to prioritize the POPs related to workforce and the WTDB.
  - Vice Chair Anne Mersereau made a comment of support on this notion of a support and advocacy letter as this keeps momentum going for the work WTDB is doing within the Strategic Plan.

**Action Item:** Vice Chair Anne Mersereau made a motion to approve the WTDB sending a letter to Ben Cannon and the HECC to prioritize POPs for WTDB. Venkat seconded. Motion passed.

- 4.3 Due to COVID-19, the work of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force has shifted to a focus on the education and training component of Artificial Intelligence talent development, both on the developer and user side of the equation. The Draft Report was presented to the board. Venkat went over the different sections and sectors included in the report. He stressed the importance of the difference between developing and using AI systems, and that there are societal and economic repercussions of AI. Mark Mitsui added his concerns about the inequities in recovery from the recession, as well as the relationship between education and employment.
- 4.4 Vice Chair Anne Mersereau reported out on the first meeting of the Essential Employability Skills Taskforce that took place on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The originally-scheduled meetings for March and April were cancelled due to COVID-19. She outlined the meeting, and topics that were discussed, and the parts of this work they will focus on. The task force will be focusing on striking a balance between analyses and moving forward. The next meeting is the end of June, and Todd Nell suggested having a representative or two from the AI Education Subcommittee join them to talk about their work.
- 4.5 Chair Ken Madden opened up the floor to the board to discuss their experiences with COVID-19. Many board members stepped forward and talked about how COVID-19 has impacted their community, their business and their lives. Many offers came forward to create connections, offer services/help others wherever possible.

## Promising and Best Practices

### 5.0 Local and Community Leadership

- 5.1 Kristina Payne of Lane Workforce Partnership introduced her partners at Shift by prefacing the conversation with how WTDB responded to the ask on funding for virtual reality training. This training is being provided at community colleges, and is helping bring education and workforce together.

Wendy Morgan then presented and shared that she founded Shift in 2018. This company responds to the need to train medical staff, and the way they train has really become crucial amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They train the medical workforce with virtual reality. They are training students' every step of the way. From hand-washing methods, to properly using PPE. She even described a feature where they have the opportunity to "walk" into a patient's room, and the disease is a bright color, and you can see how it spreads from patient to nurse/doctor, and around the room. They are focusing on training their students with DEI in mind. In today's environment, clinic hours are hard to get, as everything is under lockdown, but virtual reality is providing a solution to that problem.

- 5.2 Amy Oakley presented on the Healthcare trainings being provided at Clackamas Community College with the WTDB funding given to the local workforce board. She gave a presentation via power point elaborating on the types of programs and training they will be providing, and why. There was a survey sent out to determine what types of training to provide. The survey responses highlighted:
- Special needs
  - Curriculum development
  - Child psychology
  - DEI childcare
  - Observation & assessment
  - Continuing education for providers



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- Emergency preparedness  
Clackamas Community College has been able to continue providing training online during the pandemic.

## Operations and Compliance

### 6.0 Local Workforce Boards

- 6.1 Karen Humelbaugh, Director of the Office of Workforce Investments gave a brief update on local workforce board designations. There has been no news since the last update, due to COVID-19 halting those conversations.
- 6.2 Karen Humelbaugh then gave an update on DOL funding allocations. This information is brought to the board annually. Here are the highlights:
  - WIOA is a federally funded statute that has 4 main titles.
    - Title I- State and Local Boards; Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth (Higher Education Coordinating Commission- HECC)
    - Title II- Adult and Family Literacy (HECC)
    - Title III- Wagner-Peyser (Labor Exchange- Oregon Employment Department)
    - Title IV- Vocational Rehabilitation (Department of Human Services- Commission for the Blind)
  - Most of this money goes out to the local workforce boards, but this year due to the recession brought on by COVID-19, the decision has been made to reserve more in order to maintain flexibility in the ability to assist Oregonians.
    - Youth will reserve 5%
    - Adult will reserve 10%
    - Dislocated worker will reserve 17.5%
  - Two dislocated worker grants were awarded to OWI by the Department of Labor due to the pandemic that are for work related recovery.

**Chair Madden adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.**