



LANE WORKFORCE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 21st, 2024

11:30am – 1:00pm

MINUTES

In Attendance: Jeff Graham, Solomon Harris, Shondra Holliday, John Stapleton, David Loveall, Lyndsie Leech, Dana Merryday, Michelle Webber
Absent: Jennifer Adams
Staff: Ashley Espinoza, Tiffany Cink, Ryan Kounovsky, Anne Nestell, Stephanie Loveall

Recommendation	Motion	Seconded	Status
Approve Executive Board Meeting Minutes, October 17, 2024	David Loveall	Dana Merryday	Approved
Approve proposed RFP Frameworks for procuring WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker, Youth, and One-Stop Operator Services for Program Years 2025 – 2030.	David Loveall	Michelle Webber	Approved

I. CALL TO ORDER

Shondra Holliday called the meeting to order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

David Loveall made a motion to approve the October 17th, 2024, Executive Board meeting minutes. Dana Merryday seconded, and the motion was approved.

IV. PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK FOR UPCOMING RFPs

Overview: Ryan Kounovsky presented the proposed Request for Proposal (RFP) frameworks for procuring services for WIOA services, ensuring transparency, legislative compliance, and program alignment.

Discussion Highlights:

1. Adult/Dislocated Worker Services:

- In Lane County, the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs are combined into a single service provider contract, currently in its fourth year of a five-year cycle.
- Although not mandated by legislation, procurement ensures transparency and competition, identifying the best provider for Lane County.
- Providers are required to co-locate with partners at the certified WorkSource Lane center to foster collaboration and integration.
- Staff emphasized the importance of aligning adult services with broader workforce system goals and local demands.

2. Youth Services:

- The WIOA Youth program is in its fifth and final year of the procurement cycle.
- Procurement is legislatively required if the board does not serve as the direct service provider.
- Services prioritize out-of-school youth, adhering to the 14 legislatively required WIOA youth elements.
- A single-provider model is recommended to enhance service cohesion and efficiency. Unlike adult services, the youth provider is not required to maintain a presence at WorkSource Lane.

Staff propose aligning the procurement cycles for WIOA Adult and Youth services to streamline operations, enhance coordination, and support holistic service delivery for younger and older jobseekers alike.

3. One-Stop Operator:

- This federally mandated role, currently under a \$30,000 contract with the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership, is procured every four years.
- The current contract, in its final year, has traditionally focused on meeting facilitation and partner coordination.
- Moving forward, the procurement will emphasize greater integration between adult and youth services and address gaps in the current service delivery system.

The board discussed the broader intention to transition to a holistic ecosystem model, bridging job seekers and businesses while reducing barriers for priority populations such as homeless individuals, veterans, and low-income residents. This model aligns job seeker services with education, training, and business development to meet workforce demands effectively.

The increased involvement of the Workforce Services Operations Committee in the procurement process has already led to more innovative approaches. These efforts build on recent strategic planning and foundational work, laying the groundwork for stronger collaboration and more effective workforce programs.

The procurement process will prioritize competitive and expansive applications to attract high-quality providers. Provisions include hiring preferences for current staff (if providers change), defined case manager ratios, and competitive wages, ensuring high service standards while maintaining workforce stability.

Performance metrics remain a key focus, with monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress toward both contractual and strategic goals. Providers are expected to align their efforts with the board’s vision and the outcomes defined in the strategic plan.

David Loveall made a motion to approve the proposed RFP frameworks for procuring WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker, Youth, and One-Stop Operator services for Program Years 2025 – 2030. Michelle Webber seconded, and the motion was approved.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Highlights from Ms. Espinoza’s Report:

- **Award Highlights:**
 - Connected Lane County received the National 2024 Youth Program of the Year award from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. This award honors Connected Lane County’s outstanding contributions to youth workforce development and its commitment to empowering young people in Lane County. The award ceremony took place during the 25th Annual Youth Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona.
 - John Stapleton was honored with the Oregon Workforce Partnership Workforce Champion of the Year award further solidifying Lane County’s leadership in workforce innovation and excellence.
- **Grant Funding:**
 - Bushnell University has been awarded a \$1 Million Healthcare Workforce Ready Grant from the HECC as part of the Future Ready Oregon initiative. This grant will support the “Paving a Pathway to Practice” project, a collaboration with PeaceHealth Oregon and LWP, aimed at addressing Oregon’s critical nursing shortage.
 - Latino Professionals Connect received funding from The Oregon Community Foundation for another year of programming.
- **Richardson Media Collaboration:**
 - Successful media campaigns have increased visibility and recognition for Lane County’s programs, demonstrating the value of sharing impactful stories.
- **WORKing Together Podcast:** Hosted by Ashley and powered by the Oregon Workforce Partnership, the podcast offers insights into innovation and collaboration driving workforce development across Oregon’s nine regions.
 - November episodes include: Jennifer Richardson (Richardson Media); Tamar Jackson (Collaboration for a Cause); and Justin Yuen (GroupTrail)
 - December episodes include: Mirna Cibrian Loreli (Oregon Community Foundation, Latino Partnership Program); Chris Laney (LightCast); Pastor Gabe (Everyone Village)
- **Recent Presentations:**
 - People’s Coast Summit: LWP and CEDO presented at the 2024 People’s Coast Summit in Florence, Oregon, leading a keynote panel and workshop on the Oregon Coast Hospitality Industry Sector Partnership. The panel focused on economic development and professional growth along the coast.
 - WORKing Together Conference: Facilitated a panel around the construction-aggregate sector.

- Bethel School Board: Ashley Espinoza serves on the Bethel School Board and had the opportunity to attend the Oregon School Board Association Conference in Portland and present on Bethel's strategic plan.
- **2024 – 2026 State of the Workforce Report:**
 - The report is finalized and set for printing. There is a form available on our social media channels and website to request copies in both English and Spanish.
- **Winter Social:**
 - The annual Winter Social hosted by LWP and Collaborative EDO will take place on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:15pm – 7:00pm at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Please RSVP to Anne Nestell.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- John Stapleton:
 - Shared information about the USDA's Scales grant, which supports projects aimed at strengthening food systems by fostering partnerships between school food authorities and local growers, producers, distributors, and processors. This initiative aligns with regional farm-to-table and agricultural/youth workforce development efforts. The program awards eight grants and Lane County has been encouraged to apply. The proposal will be centered in Marcola, with additional involvement from Siuslaw and Mapleton, offering a unique opportunity to engage rural communities in developing the agricultural workforce.
- Dana Merryday:
 - Reported on the success of the Bridge Lane event in Cottage Grove, noting strong attendance and meaningful networking opportunities. The event provided a platform for emerging nonprofits to connect and establish relationships, fostering collaboration and community engagement.
- David Loveall:
 - Highlighted the ribbon-cutting ceremony held last Thursday for the newest development at 5th and Main in Springfield. The historic Rivett Building at 448 Main Street now features 12 loft-style apartment units, each with a balcony. The ground floor offers a restaurant space on Main Street, a lobby and entrance for the Rivett Lofts on Fifth Street, a commercial space, and a fully accessible work-live unit designed for individuals with disabilities. This development brings a mix of residential and commercial opportunities to downtown Springfield.
- Jeff Graham:
 - The \$7M refrigeration project is progressing well and will require a plant shutdown during the final two weeks of the year for completion. The plant will reopen in the new year with upgraded refrigeration systems in place.
 - The company has introduced new product packaging and an updated logo design, along with two new Wonder Milk products: ice cream sandwiches in s'mores and strawberry shortcake flavors.
 - With strong sales and increased customer demand projected, the company is evaluating workforce needs and anticipates hiring additional employees in the near future.

- Lyndsie Leech:
 - Shared that next week the Eugene City Council will hold its third and final work session on behavioral health and its impact on the community. The session will include a panel discussion with emergency response teams and focus on how various entities collaborate to strengthen mental and behavioral health systems.
 - Highlighted the city's success in integrating behavioral health support into police and fire services, which has proven effective despite staffing levels remaining relatively unchanged since the 1980s, even as demand on the system has grown significantly.
 - New graduates from recent training programs will join the workforce in the coming weeks, with another cohort starting early next year. This will add approximately 30 new individuals, with 35% of these being women.

- Michelle Webber: No additional updates at this time.

- Solomon Harris: No additional updates at this time.

- Shondra Holliday: No additional updates at this time.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

No additional matters were recorded.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Shondra Holliday adjourned the meeting.