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Executive Director



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Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Workforce Development Policy Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members: BJ Swanson, Jason Hudson, Christi Gilchrist, Todd Schwarz, John Smith, Scott Syme, Lori Wolff, Jani Revier, Tom Kealey, Tom Schultz, Clay Long

Staff: Paige Nielebeck, Jeffrey Bacon, Wendi Secrist, Caty Solace, Amanda Ames, Matthew Thomsen

Guests: Laurel McMahan, Kellye Sharp, Sarah Nash

Call to Order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda

The ETP Request from College of Southern Idaho was not marked on the agenda as an action item, but Ms. Secrist indicated the Committee will be asked to act on it.

Review October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Revier to approve the October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Gilchrist. Motion carried.

Eligible Training Provider Policy Update – The Service Provider’s Perspective

Ms. McMahan provided an ETP Policy Update based on the service providers implementation over the past 18 months. Please see attached slides.

Policies can have unintended consequences that the Committee or Council does not see because they are not involved in WIOA on a day to day basis. The Committee has updated the ETP Policy and Appendix A to broaden the training choices included on the ETP list, but there are still challenges in balancing employer demand and consumer choice. When the Committee last updated the ETP Policy, the ability for a provider to petition a training program being added to the ETP list was added. Since that time, Ms. Secrist has a discussion with the State Board of Education and Craig Shaul from IDOL about the in-demand methodology to address some of the concerns of the State Board of Education and the Policy Committee. The Committee recognizes that the current methodology for selecting ETP providers is not adequate for the needs of Idaho and will begin working on the next iteration of the ETP Policy in early 2021.

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Is the data being used to determine the trainings eligible for the ETP List reliable?

- The data is coming from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and IDOL. There have been some inconsistencies in the data (e.g. RN data shows it requires a bachelor's degree), but all the major providers of labor market data used this as the starting point.

Ms. McMahan suggested considering including occupations at the bachelor's degree level and putting into policy the timeline of how long the ETP would support an individual in training to broaden the opportunities.

The next step is to continue working with IDOL and the State Board of Education on the methodology. It is important that everyone is leveraging the same data sets across education, workforce, and labor. The methodologies used to create the list of in-demand occupations can be adapted for different purposes, but the data source needs to be the same. Ms. Secrist will report back to the Committee in a month or two with a direction to move to improve the ETP methodology.

ETP Request from College of Southern Idaho

CSI requested to add Back-End and Front-End Software Development training to the ETP list. The cost for the training is around \$3,000 per student.

Ms. Secrist reviewed CSI's request. Please see attached document.

An international software company in Twin Falls approached CSI about hiring some of their students on an internship and apprenticeship basis. Most of their current employees are in India. The company wants to make a concerted effort to employ local individuals. There are a lot of software companies in Idaho who do not recruit locally because they are unable to find individuals with the skillsets they need.

What is a location quotient?

- It is the concentration of individuals who hold similar jobs. It provides an idea of companies who are hiring similar employees. The location quotient is on the lower side because Idaho does not have as many individuals in the career path.

What is the WDC's involvement?

- For an individual, who is eligible under WIOA, to receive services from IDOL to access training, the training has to match up with the ETP Policy. The WDC oversees the policy that defines what training can be provided. If the Committee approves CSI's request, then WIOA funds can be used to access the training.
- The Council is not providing the funding to IDOL to provide the training.

Motion by Ms. Gilchrist to approve the ETP Request from the College of Southern Idaho as presented. Second by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Schwarz recuses himself from the vote.

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Motion carried.

Idaho Launch Update & Training Additions

The WDC is running Launch and providing as much outreach as possible before the CARES Act Funding expires in December. Over 100 Idahoans have completed the Idaho Launch form, which mean they are connecting directly with a career planner at IDOL. We have seen almost 5,000 unique Idahoans go to the Idaho Launch site. 700 have browsed the form. Ms. Solace is making some adjustments to help these numbers increase.

Ms. Solace provided an update on the courses that are currently funded by Launch. Please see attached spreadsheet.

Once Ed2Go was approved with BSU, was it added for all institutions that offer Ed2Go?

- All programs that are third-party providers, are also approved for the other institutions, but the institution needs to make the request as the WDC does not know the contractual details between each institution and Ed2Go.
- Ms. Solace highlighted welding on the list to ask the Committee if online welding should be approved.
- Staff are concerned about approving some of these "hard skills" trainings without some hands-on component. Ms. Gilchrist will research the welding training.

Similarly, auto mechanics, carpentry, and CDL licenses, require both in-classroom and hands-on training.

Ms. Secrist recommends that those trainings be removed from the list to allow Ms. Secrist, Ms. Solace, and Ms. Gilchrist do more research into the trainings. The CDL trainings were originally removed from the list because each region had multiple CDL training providers. Region 2 is having issues with their CDL training so they may need the online training, but we need to understand how the individuals will get the driving time. The Region 2 training provider is not currently enrolling Idaho residents even though they are physically located in Lewiston.

Motion by Mr. Long to approve the list of training programs to be added to Idaho Launch minus the welding, carpentry, CDL, and Auto Mechanic online courses. Second by Ms. Revier.

EMT is not usually a paid position in rural Idaho, so should it be included on the list?

- EMT is a feeder course for the essential worker programs. A lot of essential workers look for individuals who have EMT training.

Motion carried.

The For-Credit Courses and Policy Updates will be moved to the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Smith to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:04 p.m.