

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

B. J. Swanson
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Workforce Development Policy Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 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: Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Caty Solace, Amanda Ames, Matthew Thomsen

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Revier to approve the November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried.

Financial Assistance for Short-Term Training – Policy Updates for Council

At the last Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the cost of some of the Launch training programs and whether the policy should allow for an increase in funding for high demand programs, such as apprenticeships, HVAC, Plumbing, CDL, Nursing, etc. The Committee asked Ms. Secrist to develop draft changes to the policy.

Another issue with the policy is that the way one of the approved training vendors, Udemy, provides access to their courses through a license. The policy says that the WDC would have to collect 25% of the training cost from the participant. The WDC has negotiated access to the full Udemy course library for a year at the cost of \$49 per person. Recovering \$12.25 from each participant would not be cost efficient as the WDC does not have processes in place to take payments from individuals and the benefit of having access to the full course library outweighs the effort.

Ms. Secrist came up with two different options of how those changes can be incorporated into the policy. Please see attached documents.

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Discussion:

The WDC has a fixed amount of funding for this program (\$2 million). Should the Committee see how long that funding lasts before considering providing bigger benefits to certain programs, or should the program be setup the way the Committee wants up front?

- Seeing how long the funding lasts may limit some opportunities, but it is important to ensure the program is sustainable throughout the year.
- This is a new program so the WDC has no idea how quickly the funds will be used or what the appropriate funding cap is. It would be helpful to have data before making decisions on policy changes.
- It would be nice to see a program roll out that is so popular the funding runs out. Maybe \$1 million of the funding could be allocated first and then release the other million for use later in the year.
- If the Committee moves forward with the first policy option presented by Ms. Secrist, the Committee still must decide what the funding cap will be for the higher cost programs. Not every program would be approved above the \$2,000 cap. It will only be programs the Committee determines can go above the set funding limit.
- If the funds run out, it shows the funds are being focused in the right areas.
- Employers may not be as aware of the program yet. It may take time to get the word out. \$2 million is a starting point and then the program can grow from there.
- Will the flexibility of the first policy option slow the approval process down?
 - Right now, the maximum wait to increase the amount for a given program would be 2 months.
 - The Committee expressed concern with the education entities and individuals having to wait for the Committee to meet.
- The Committee asked if the policy could reflect that the Executive Director has the authority to approve exceptions to the maximum funding limit for specific programs?
- The State Board of Education has designees that can, within reasonable limits, make decisions for the committee. The committee then reviews those decisions and can adjust accordingly.

Motion by Mr. Schwarz to approve the Financial Support for Short-Term Workforce Training Policy – Option 1 with the following change - replace “The Workforce Development Council Policy Committee has received approval from the Workforce Development Council to...” with “The Executive Director may...” in #3 on the second page. Second by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried.

ETP Policy – Appendix A Update

Ms. Secrist reviewed the update to the ETP Policy. Please see attached document.

The current methodology is eliminating Registered Nursing programs from being eligible for the ETP list, due to the Bureau of Labor Statistic indicating that the occupation requires a bachelor’s degree. Ms. Secrist is requesting RN be added to the list of additional occupations to be added to the ETP list.

Motion by Mr. Schwarz to approve the ETP List update as presented. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

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2021 Legislative Priorities

Ms. Secrist reviewed the draft 2021 Legislative Priorities. Please see attached document.

The Governor's Office will have the opportunity to make any necessary edits to the legislative priorities sheet after the State of the State Address.

Discussion:

Is CTE bringing any legislation forward?

- CTE was asked not to submit anything new for this legislative session. If anything changes once the Governor does the State of the State, those items might be added to the list.

The WDC does not have any legislation going before the Legislature this year.

Motion by Mr. Schwarz to recommend approval of the 2021 Legislative Priorities as presented to the full council. Second by Ms. Gilchrist. Motion carried.

Idaho Launch Update & Training Additions

Ms. Solace reviewed the updates to the Launch training list. Please see attached spreadsheet.

Ms. Gilchrist did a survey of the Workforce Training Centers on the welding program. None of the peers around the state have that Ed2Go program in their catalogue. Ms. Gilchrist recommends removing the welding program from the list.

The CDL license program does not include the driving component, but that is in a region where individuals are struggling to find CDL training. This could be a pathway in for someone who has that passion. Staff are working with Swift Way. They are in Lewiston, but currently not training Idahoans.

Discussion:

Do we have record of success of the online CDL training at LCSC?

- We do not.

If the CDL course is purely online, then the Committee should not be supporting it. The students need the driving training.

The Nursing and CNA programs align with the skills for patient care and assistance and is a new addition.

The CDL program that is contracted by College of Southern Idaho is through Top Gun. The Committee has already approved Top Gun as a provider for the CDL program. The only change on this would be that the program would be offered through CSI. In the past months there have been some requests to take that specific training through CSI.

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- CSI has a symbiotic relationship with Top Gun. Top Gun reached out to CSI to partner. They like to cobrand with CSI. CSI does not have the interest or ability to support their own CDL program, so they decided to partner with Top Gun.
- Top Gun is also looking to try to partner with CWI.

Motion by Ms. Revier to approve the addition of the Nursing and CDL at CSI programs to the Idaho Launch training list and decline the CDL program at LCSC and BSU and the online Welding program. Second by Commissioner Smith.

Mr. Schwarz abstained.

Motion carried.

The for-credit program discussion will be moved to the January meeting.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.