

**BRAD LITTLE**  
GOVERNOR

**Wendi Secrist**  
*Executive Director*



**Deni Hoehne**  
*Chair*

**B. J. Swanson**  
*Vice Chair*

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

### **WIOA Advisory Group Meeting Minutes January 15, 2021**

**Attendees:** Vicki Isakson, Tim Leigh, Missi Johnson, Dan Cabrera, Admir Selimovic, Sarah Nash, Amelia Valasek, Matt Markve, Mike Walsh, Cindy Lehmann, Liesl Milan, Teresa Pitt

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

#### **Welcome**

Everyone introduced themselves.

#### **Measurable Skills Gain Update**

They had an initial meeting to discuss best practices, measurable skills gain, negotiating performance goals, etc. They are going to meet on a quarterly basis.

Because we have focused the WIOA Advisory Group on certain topics, if it is a topic that everyone would benefit from, we could incorporate that quarterly meeting into the WIOA Advisory meeting. If it is only going to be specific to certain agencies, then the whole group does not need to be included.

They will continue to report progress back to the group.

#### **Launch Update**

The CARES Act funds have been extended. Those individuals whose employment was directly affected by COVID, we can still pay for 100% of their training. We have spent \$175,000 so far on training. People are getting a big benefit from these funds. These are life changing trainings.

They are working on a revamp of the outreach materials to reflect the extension. We have the ability to spend these dollars (about \$300,000) until they run out or in May. Caty is going to provide some links into the chat to make sure everyone has access to the Launch site and to the outreach materials.

We have had about 800 individuals complete the form on the Launch site. Many of those individuals have been eligible for WIOA programs. We are not going to be able to do the same

type of advertising we did this fall. We are going to be working heavily with our partners to help get the word out. We have approved about 80 vouchers at this point.

Caty is happy to meet with any agency to provide a full tour of Launch.

Caty will share the Launch data with Dan Cabrera.

We are hoping to have the outreach materials done by the end of next week.

Wednesday, the Council approved a change to the policy that drives the WDTF spending part of the program. With the Training Fund if they were not CARES eligible, then we would be able to cover 75-90% of the program up to \$2,000. The Council changed the maximum amount to \$7,500. We saw the individuals going into high-demand programs (e.g. CDL), the training came at a much higher cost. The Council decided to up that limit so the Policy Committee can ensure the trainings added to the list are really in-demand. They individual will still have the training amount determined by their income. We are also now able to pay 100% of individual's Udemy account.

### **Justice Involved Youth**

They have hired an individual, Reegan Jacobson, to fill the position. He will start on the 26<sup>th</sup> and start training with IDOL. Hopefully by the time we meet again they will have some individuals enrolled. They are finally getting going. Mr. Jacobson has a good background in law enforcement and corrections.

The money is coming from IDOL and the WDC from recapture WIOA Funds. They have about three hundred, 18-24 year old's, being released from corrections yearly. This will provide an opportunity to reach these individuals and get them connected with training, work experience, etc. This will be a statewide program.

It would be a good idea to setup quick calls with the different partners to meet and chat with Mr Jacobson. He should connect with IBE on the Youth Apprenticeship Grant. We want to make sure those opportunities are available to them. Corrections has been connecting heavily with the Libraries Commission to make sure that the libraries programs are accessible to those individuals.

### **Technical Assistance**

Our goals as to what we are collectively going to work on for our state planning period, one of those was to improve out coordination around employer business services. We have applied for technical assistance from USDOL on this topic. Maher and Maher will be working with us in early May to do some trainings on this topic. It will be open to the entire system. Sarah Nash will help facilitate the communications around this.

**Adjourned at 10:13 a.m.**