

APRIL 24, 2020  
Systems Alignment Committee

*Draft Minutes*

Committee Members Present (phone): Princess Ayers-Stewart, John Bowers, Gina Breukelman, Ligaya Domingo, Kristen Fox, Katie Garrow, Tom Peterson

Chief Local Elected Officials' Representatives Present (phone): Shannon Harris, Nancy Yamamoto

Board Members Present (phone): Berit Eriksson, Jennifer Ramirez Robson

Staff Present (phone): Shelan Aldridge, Radhika Baliga, Beth Blanchard, Vey, Damneun, Mike Davie, Marta Kidane, Marie Kurose, Sean Morrin, Bryan Pannell, Tracey Patrick, Jason Petrait, Aara Shaikh, Jeff Sikora, Joe Taylor, Elizabeth Unrath, Marcelle Wellington, Emily Williams

Guests Present (phone): Debbie Aoki, Jack Chapman, Stephanie Moyes

Materials Distributed:

- March 6, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes
- April 24, 2020 Draft SAC Agenda
- May 21, 2020 Draft Board Meeting Agenda
- Board and Committee Meeting Schedule
- Transforming the Workforce System Information Item
- April 24, 2020 SAC Meeting PowerPoint Slides

**I. Introductions**

Chair Kristen Fox welcomed the committee and guests and asked for introductions.

**II. Action Items**

**A. 1 & 2. Consent Agenda and Minutes**

Mr. John Bowers reviewed the March 6, 2020 draft minutes. Ms. Gina Breukelman made a motion to approve; Mr. Tom Peterson gave second. The motion was unanimously approved.

**III. Discussion**

**1. COVID-19 Response**

Mr. Bryan Pannell gave overview of 200,609 unemployment claims in King County to date, 15.6% of the labor force. A continued rise in unemployment is expected.

Employment Security Department (ESD) data reflects disproportionate impact on people of color, immigrants and low wage workers due to industries most impacted. Largest disparity is in people with an education level of an Associate degree or lower reflecting 42% of the King County labor force and 72% of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims. Many these positions are expected to be a temporary layoff.

Ms. Beth Blanchard gave an update on WorkSource (WS) System impact during COVID-19. Statewide WS closure began March 17, 2020 and sites initiated virtual protocol on March 19, 2020. To mitigate ESD's UI call volume, WS Title 1 provider staff will assist with claim processing. UI training for WS staff is April 27, 2020. In addition, WS staff is in the process of translating UI information into 15 languages. Per ESD, 1.4 Billion dollars have been paid out in claims. The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDC) is continuing to apply for additional emergency funds.

Committee member shared the effects what COVID-19 is having on their sector/organization.

Chair Fox stated that Amazon is focused on staff safety while meeting the increased demand worldwide.

Ms. Breukelman shared that Boeing closed factories for three weeks and reopened with expanded PPE and necessary safety measures.

Ms. Katie Garrow shared that MLK Labor's focus is unemployment training, lobbying, continuation of healthcare coverage for those laid off and wage replacement for undocumented workers.

Mr. Peterson stated 50% of construction projects are active and most staff are telecommuting.

Ms. Ligaya Domingo shared that a major focus is filling the numerous healthcare positions available.

Mr. John Bowers shared that Seattle Colleges classes are virtual and will remain so through Summer 2020. Fall quarter protocol yet to be determined.

Ms. Nancy Yamamoto shared that small businesses have been affected the most.

Ms. Shannon Harris explained that King has reduced metro bus lines, converted 14 hotels into Coronavirus recovery spaces, and recession planning is a priority.

Mr. Mike Davie reviewed policy changes to allow virtual processes; a workgroup is addressing eligibility obstacles. An addendum will be presented at the May 21, 2020 Full Board Meeting.

Ms. Marie Kurose explained that the WDC applied for a National Disaster Recovery grant and a JP Morgan Chase grant; and is partnering with Washington Workforce Association (WWA) to apply for a statewide National Dislocated Worker grant. The WDC has been awarded a Rapid Response Additional Assistance grant by the Employment Security Department (ESD). As continued funding is assessed, outreach engagement planning will be coordinated in tandem with regional partners.

## **2. Full Board Planning**

Mr. Jason Petrait reviewed planning for Thursday, May 21, 2020 Full Board Meeting. COVID-19 and WS system updates will be on the agenda.

## **3. Operations Workplan**

Ms. Kurose advocated a regional approach in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic; the Operational Plan was amended accordingly. Virtual monitoring conducted by ESD called out the need for completion of the Designation Agreement and private funding.

#### **IV. Information and Other Business**

##### **1. WIOA RFP releases and WorkSource Certification/MOU**

Ms. Marcelle Wellington explained that the Requests for Proposal for WIOA Youth Services and WIOA Business Services have been delayed until Spring 2021, as well as, WorkSource Site Certification and the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreement.

#### **V. Adjourned 11:02am**