

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
Systems Alignment Committee
Regional Strategic Plan
Draft Minutes

Committee Members Present (virtual): John Bowers, Gina Breukelman, Ligaya Domingo, Kristen Fox, Katie Garrow, Anne Goranson

Chief Local Elected Officials' Representatives Present (virtual): Ashton Allison, Shannon Harris, Nancy Yamamoto

Board Members Present (virtual): Berit Eriksson

Staff Present (virtual): Marie Kurose, Erin Monroe, Bryan Pannell, Jason Petrait,

Guests Present (virtual): John Glynn, W. Tali Hairston, Jill Nishi, Kathy Powers, Ali Scego, Trang Tu

Materials Distributed:

- September 11, 2020 Draft SAC Agenda
- Readout summaries on the current state of dislocated workers and the future of the regional economy
- September 11, 2020 SAC Meeting PowerPoint Slides
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I. Introductions

Chair Kristen Fox led a moment of silence for 9/11 victims, welcomed the committee and guests and asked for introductions.

II. What We Are Learning

A. Current State of Dislocated Workers

Reviewed data from new Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims, continued UI claims, job postings and employment estimates by sector; Black people are 6.1% of labor force and 8.2% of new UI claims, 12.6% of continuing UI claims. Nearly half of all UI claims fell into five sectors: Retail, Accommodation/Food Services, Construction, Healthcare and Manufacturing. At this time, 25% of new UI claims are focused in 21 occupations that pay under \$50,000 such as hairdressers, taxi drivers, waiters/waitresses, retail salespersons, bartenders, and customer service representatives. Continued UI claims show a decrease in job postings in all sectors.

B. Projected Future State of Regional Economy

1. Industry feedback and perspectives on long-term recovery

The WDC will be a leader in developing and implementing a language access plan in partnership with the City of Seattle and King County. Potential to create language services jobs in addition to incorporating technological infrastructure.

Ms. Shannon Harris, recommended client advocacy implementation in the Regional Strategic Plan.

The key factors include consumer behavior and developing a COVID-19 vaccine. Increased fear of COVID-19 contraction has increased online purchases. In August, Washington State regained half of all lost jobs. Regional recovery is currently anticipated for 2022 and national recovery is projected for 2023. Trends highlighted across this year include BIPOC inequality, Asian supply chain breakdown, accelerated automation/digitization, and remote working. Those experiencing income disparity can be negatively impacted. Potential job growth sectors are transportation, healthcare, telecommunications, IT, digital entertainment/information and manufacturing.

The BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) barriers to re-employment have been exacerbated during COVID. There is a perceived employer bias with populations at high risk of contracting the virus. Women of color, particularly black women, express community challenges with childcare, transportation, and training and employment. Black men have challenges getting their licenses renewed. Additionally, mental health issues are increasing and services are needed. Refugee and immigrant populations are facing food and housing crises. The Regional Strategic Plan should incorporate sustainable priorities to address these employment concerns. The City of Seattle has funded a labor liaison and will partner with the WDC.

III. Discussion & Request for Guidance

- A. Given the profile of current dislocated workers, what strategies would you have us prioritize in the short run?

Convening and finding concrete projects can help build trust with community and partners. The Regional Strategic Plan will require continuous metrics and alignment with regional workforce organizations. Employer readiness must have racial equity embedded. Prioritization of developing sustainable good jobs with low barriers and social commitment from employers.

- B. Given the projections on the future shape of the economy, what are your thoughts on the sectors and/or occupations we should focus on?

It will take approximately two to five years to recover and will vary by sector.

IV. Information

- A. Next SAC Meeting September 25, 2020.

V. Adjourned 11:00am