

**Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Executive Director's Report**

Meeting No. 206
November 2, 2016

There has been a lot of activity since the September Board meeting. Board staff has been engaged in numerous discussions connected to the upcoming state legislative session, as well as federal discussions relating to this year's Congressional session. Therefore, this report will focus on the many boards, commissions, and task forces on which the Workforce Board is statutorily required to sit, and other groups that have significant relevance to the Board's priorities. I am focusing on those groups that have been active over the past few months, but have also attached a list of all the workgroups on which Board staff participate. There will be time on the meeting agenda for Board members to ask for more information or clarification or to provide comment on this report. Members should also feel free to contact me directly with any specific questions (eleni.papadakis@wtb.wa.gov, 360-709-4600).

Coordination with other groups involved in workforce development:

1. **Adult Education Advisory Council:** Plans, supports, and advocates for Basic Education for Adults (BEA) services across the state. This also includes WIOA Title II funds, which match a much larger pool of state dollars (about 1:4). BEA is an important partner in the state's workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP) plan. The Adult Education Advisory Council plan was largely incorporated into TAP. The Council is working on implementation strategies to advance its plan and TAP.
2. **Governor's Task Force on Disability Employment:** A broad cross-section of stakeholders identifying low-cost strategies and policy priorities to accelerate employment of people with disabilities, including within state government. Many Task Force members were involved in the TAP planning process, and are not engaged in the TAP implementation process.
3. **Governor's Military Transition Council:** A broad cross-section of stakeholders developing strategies to help those leaving the military find access to meaningful, living wage, civilian employment. There is terrific coordination across numerous state and local agencies with the military bases across the state. Members of this group helped build sections of TAP that refer to military transition and enhanced services for veterans.
4. **Life Sciences and Global Health Workforce Advisory Committee:** Gov. Inslee has providing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Discretionary funding to WA Department of Commerce for an analysis of the workforce needs of this important economic sector. A consulting firm, TEconomy Partners, will survey employers and others to identify current needs and barriers to filling workforce gaps.
5. **Health Workforce and Behavioral Health Councils:** These two councils are staffed by the Workforce Board. The HWC is statutorily chartered to identify specific health workforce shortages and provide the governor and legislature a plan to address those shortages. Gov. Inslee provided the HWC (Workforce Board is administrator) WIOA discretionary funds to identify skill shortages and other workforce challenges in the behavioral health sector. Recommendations to the legislature will be developed through a broad stakeholder engagement process.

6. **Governor’s Policy Academy on Work-Based Learning:** This effort is co-chaired by yours truly and John Aultman, Gov. Inslee’s Executive Policy Advisor on Higher Education and Workforce Development. The Workforce Board is the administrator and project manager for a grant received from the National Governors Association and Siemens Foundation. WA is one of six states funded to develop a policy framework that supports the scaling up of work-based learning opportunities across the state for young people aged 16 to 29. Gov. Inslee has contributed WIOA Discretionary funds to support 20 Work-Based Learning (WBL) “Learning Laboratories,” existing WBL providers, to help us identify the components of the policy framework. The Academy has also developed a performance accountability plan, and is currently compiling an environmental scan of current practices. This project will culminate in May 2017 with a Governor’s Summit on Work-Based Learning.
7. **Advance CTE:** This national association represents state level CTE leaders. It is an important advocacy voice for CTE in Congress and with the administration. They are currently involved with efforts to craft a Perkins reauthorization bill. Board staff has been engaged in those discussions. They are also driving a national dialogue on the future of CTE. Eleni is on the Board of Directors.
8. **K-12/ESSA Workgroups:** There are a number of workgroups on which Board staff participate that are developing the implementation plan and performance metrics for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and for state reforms. ESSA is the recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, often referred to as No Child Left Behind.
9. **Washington Student Achievement Council:** Provides strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. Workforce Board staff participate on WSAC subcommittees that address issues in alignment with Workforce Board priorities. In an interesting recent development, WSAC implementing a strategic initiative to re-engage adult workers with post-secondary education. They are exploring the Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLA) model advanced by the Workforce Board. Workforce Board’s advocacy led to the codification of the model in state statute.
10. **State Rehabilitation Council:** is an advisory council to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, mandated by WIOA. Council staff and members were instrumental partners in the development of TAP and now in its implementation.
11. **State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind:** Similar to item 10, this council advises the Department of Services for the Blind. It is also mandated by WIOA. DSB and the Council have been active partners in the development and now the implementation of Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP).

The current full list of workgroups that Workforce Board staff engage with is attached. The list continues to grow, and statutory mandates make management of these responsibilities a challenge. Staff is judicious in how it chooses to participate, assuring alignment with Board priorities whenever possible. If any Board member has an interest in representing the organization on any of the above workgroups or any on the longer list, please let me know.

Consumer Protection Services:

1. **ITT Technical Institute Closes.** On September 6, 2016, ITT Technical Institute closed all of its 130 campuses nationwide; affecting more than 40,000 students and 8,000

employees. ITT operated three campuses in Washington, with enrollment of approximately 750 students.

ITT's closure was the result of sanctions taken by the U.S. Department of Education in August that placed restrictions on ITT's ability to receive federal financial aid disbursements and banned enrollment of new students. In addition, the department also increased the company's letter of credit to \$124 million or 40% of all federal aid ITT received in 2015. ITT had been facing several state and federal investigations and legal actions. On September 16, ITT filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

In Washington, ITT offered associate and bachelor degree programs approved by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). However, both WSAC and the Workforce Board had oversight of Veterans education benefits. Some 214 ITT students used federal veterans' education benefits in Washington. The two agencies worked together to prepare for the closure and communicate it to legislators and others. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and the Council of Presidents (public 4-year colleges) worked with WSAC and Workforce Board to ease transitions for IIT students whenever possible. A comprehensive student resource webpage was created to assist students with questions about financial aid, loan discharge, obtaining transcripts, and options for continuing education at another institution.

2. **Annual Student Data Reporting Improved, Applauded.** All private career schools licensed by the Workforce Board, and schools with programs on the state's Eligible Training Provider List, are required to submit student data to the Workforce Board each year. This year's data-reporting season (September 1-October 28), shows how process improvements can make a big difference for both customers and Workforce Board staff. The data reporting team conducted a survey to get customer feedback on the data process. The team then met to simplify and streamline the Student Data Portal web pages to make site navigation easier. The team also conducted two live webinars so schools could learn how to use the portal before it opened on September 1. The team also streamlined the user guide and "fool proofed" the student data spreadsheets, so customers could correctly submit social security numbers and demographic details without errors. The Governor's Office recognized these efforts and the team provided two presentations about this experience at the Oct. 18-19 Lean Transformation Conference in Tacoma.

Health Sentinel Network:

Health Sentinel Network Results Come In. An overview of this project was presented to the Board well over a year ago. This project was funded under a federal grant to the Washington Health Care Authority (HCA), called A Healthier Washington. HCA received \$66 million, the bulk of which is supporting regional healthcare delivery collaboratives across the state to test new approaches to integrated health delivery. HCA

acknowledged that transformations in healthcare delivery will require adjustments to the health workforce and the preparation of new workers, so included \$250,000 for the Workforce Board and Health Workforce Council to implement the Health Sentinel Network.

This summer, the Workforce Board in collaboration with Washington's Health Care Authority and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, reached out to healthcare providers as part of a Health Workforce Council initiative to understand more quickly—and with more certainty—where shortages of healthcare providers are occurring and also get a better handle on the unmet need for specific skills in regions around the state. The response was far better than anticipated with 107 respondents reporting on 178 facilities. Those results are now being tabulated and will be reported out in the coming weeks. Already, another 100 or so providers have indicated interest in participating in the next survey which is set to open November 1.

Much of the staff work since the last Board meeting has been focused on TAP Implementation, supporting the 6 committees, facilitating the TAP Accelerator Committee, and pouring over the final WIOA rules to ensure compliance and inform TAP implementation. Staff have also continued exploratory work on behalf of the Board in the Career Readiness space. The Board will hear updates on these efforts during Board meeting presentations.