

CUSTOMER ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Virtual Meeting: [Recording](https://youtu.be/LaY0fMjFBQg)

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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| Item |
| Attendees: William Belden; Paul Francis; Marie Bruin; Carolyn McKinnon; Danny Marshall; Anna Nikolaeva Olson; Shanna McBride; Will Durden; Kim Wheeler; Colleen Seto; Emmanuel Flores; Harry Birak; Annette Herup; Gary Kamimura; Marianne Brathwaite; Joe Krels; Courtney Robinson - - Student Panel: Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil; Molli Kuwahara; Josephine Saccio-Devine |
| Call to Order (10:05am)Welcome and Introductions - *Paul Francis, Executive Director** New member – Michael Lee, Columbia Basin
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| Action Items – *Paul Francis** Adopt October 2023 Minutes
	+ Motioned to approve: Courtney Robinson
	+ Second the motion: Annette Herup
	+ Minutes approved with no amendments
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| Executive Director’s Report - *Paul Francis & Arlen Harris, Legislative Director** SBCTC Legislative Update:
	+ [SB5953](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5953&Year=2023&Initiative=false) – Concerning financial aid (Pell Grant, WA College Grant) for incarcerated students and making sure that the congressional law that passed to get the grant into the hands of incarcerated students.
	+ [HB1889](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1889&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – Extends professional license eligibility to individuals regardless of immigration or citizenship status, building upon existing access provided by the Washington College Grant to undocumented students and DREAMERs.
	+ [HB2121](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2121&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – Supports beneficiaries of public assistance programs, including SNAP recipients, in automatically qualifying as income eligible for additional assistance. Collaborates with DSHS and the Student Achievement Council to identify eligible families and students.
	+ [HB2441](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2441&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – Establishes a pilot program to waive college in the high school fees for private, not-for-profit four-year institutions. Partnerships with institutions like University of Central Washington and Heritage University aim to benefit students, particularly in the Yakima Valley.
	+ Budget priorities for SBCTC:
		- Bachelors of Science in Computer Science programs: Requesting close to $1 million from the Operating budget to support this initiative.
		- Climate Science curriculum in workforce programs: Seeking funding of approximately $900,000 from both chambers, with $475,000 from the Senate.
		- Basic Needs Navigator: Working to transition part-time positions to full-time across the system, with a budget request of around $500,000 to support these efforts.
* Member Legislative Updates
	+ [Washing State Labor Council](https://www.wslc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/24-WSLC-Agenda_24Jan17.pdf)
		- [HB1893](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1893&Initiative=false&Year=2023) and [SB 5777](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5777&Initiative=false&Year=2023) - Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.
		- [HB2100](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2100&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – HB2100 aims to alleviate mass layoff impacts on workers, potentially through WARN notice regulations, ensuring timely notifications and offering rapid response resources under the Washington Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) closely monitors this bill for its provisions and impact on workers' rights.
	+ Department of Commerce
		- [SB6303](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6303&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – Providing tax incentives to encourage energy storage system and component parts manufacturing in Washington.
		- [HB 2230](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2230&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – Promoting economic inclusion by creating the economic security for all grant programs. This is looking to expand existing programs while creating pathways for new programs. ESD is also tracking this legislation that looks to solidify existing programs and elevate those in poverty out and to keep any from falling below the current poverty line.
		- [HB 1170](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1170&Year=2023&Initiative=false) – Improving climate resilience through updates to the state’s integrated climate response strategy. Currently has bipartisan support and has a Manufacturing Council that meets regularly to address the state’s climate response with agency partners around the state.
	+ Employment Security Department
		- Continue to monitor the unemployment insurance legislations that have passed their house of origin.
		- Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program - delivers reemployment plans and services to UI claimants determined likely to exhaust UI benefits.
	+ Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
		- [HB 2155](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2155&Initiative=false&Year=2023) - Currently working on barriers of the Credential Registry bill that is no longer active for the 2024 legislative session. Partner agencies and WTB continue to work this legislation with hopes to move it forward in the future.
		- State Workforce Plan: Talent and Prosperity for All plan ([TAP Plan](https://wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/washington-state-workforce-plan/)) is currently at the open comments portion of the update and is open till March 15, 2024.
		- [Digital Literacy Empowerment and Workforce Inclusion Act](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2360&Initiative=false&Year=2023) – while did not go as far as hoped this session, the goal remails the same; the bring awareness to historically marginalized and underrepresents communities and to create opportunities to build confidence using technology, digital literacy, education, and support.
		- [2024 Workforce Board matrix](https://wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/washington-workforce-system/) is a project that partners with other agencies and is published annually. There have been two new programs that highlight veterans added this year.
		- [WAVE Scholarship](https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/) – recently gained additional scholarship funds in the Governor’s budget by another half a million of additional funding to add to the current funding that is in place. Applications for the WAVE program are open till March 10, 2024; and always looking for reviewers.
	+ Northwest Career College Foundation
		- Annual conference for the PNW Federation will be taking place at Highline Community College on May 15-16, 2024.
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| Workforce Update – *Marie Bruin, WF Education Director & William Belden, WF Policy Associate** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Update – *Will Durden, Director BEdA*
	+ The TAP Plan is a requirement of the WIOA.
	+ The [Congressional Research Services](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47905) supplies data, as they are a neutral party, and they dive deeper into details of what is going on in this reauthorization.
	+ Title 1 changes (administered by Labor) - entail modifications to workforce development programs. These adjustments could cover updates to training provider lists, performance measures, locale area redesignations, and heightened requirements for adult and dislocated worker initiatives. Efforts may also focus on granting permanent authorities to bolster community college programs.
	+ Title 2 changes (administered by Education) – focus on updates to definitions and highlight the importance of digital literacy. The pre-authorization process emphasizes the integration of digital skills into basic skills education, reflecting the growing importance of digital competencies in today's workforce.
* [Workforce Pell Grant](https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bipartisan_workforce_pell_act_fact_sheet.pdf)
	+ There are currently 3 bills out there concerning the Pell Grant.
	+ Come changes that are currently highlighted.
		- Changing the 15-week threshold as a minimum to 8-week threshold. This would allow students with Master’s degrees to be eligible for the grant.
* Invest in Washington
	+ Currently in both the Senate and House budgets and is only at $92,000; this is a result of several years ago a tax waiver for certain types of construction effected the account and now those whom the waiver applied to are paying it back, and through the payback efforts that is generating revenue for Invest in Washington.
	+ Coupled with our Workforce Development funds that are used in similar fashion, our colleges will engage in a competitive RFP process.
* Incumbent Worker Strategies
	+ We continue to have a robust Job Skills Program and are looking at short-term Pell grants as well.
	+ Comprehensive Model for Skill Pathways:
		- Conceptualization of a model encompassing a wide range of offerings, from non-credit continuing education courses to industry-recognized training and certificates, leading to for-credit certificate and degree programs.
		- Aim to create a seamless continuum of skill pathways catering to diverse learner needs and career aspirations.
	+ Partnerships with Businesses:
		- Exploration of partnerships with businesses to enhance access to resources.
		- Potential provision of resources near or on-site at business centers or workplaces.
		- Consideration of supporting cohorts of students aligned with specific industry needs, utilizing job descriptions to identify required skills and providing credit for on-the-job learning.
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| Student Panel* SBCTC Legislative Interns – *Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil, Student Services Policy Associate; Mollie Kuwahara, Student Legislative Intern (Tacoma Community College); & Josephine Saccio-Devine, Student Legislative Intern (Lower Columbia College)*
	+ Advocate to close the gap between student advocacy and state policy makers; look to where we have advertised opportunities such as the SBCTC legislative internship program and other programs that will integrate the student voice into state policies.
	+ Working to dissolve the preconceived notions that students cannot be heard and show other students where they can advocate for themselves both on campus and through legislation.
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| [Job Skills Program](file:///G%3A%5CWorkforce%5CGroups%20%28Councils%20%26%20Committees%29%5CCAC%5C2024%5CFebruary%2021%202024%5CJSP%20CAC%20Slide%20-%20not%20for%20packet.pptx) – *Carolyn McKinnon, WF Policy Associate; Danny Marshall, WF Program Administrator; and Vicky Chungtuyco, WF Program Coordinator* * Biennial Legislative Report
	+ Page 9 of the report shows the total number of courses delivered through the program.
* Funding Update
	+ There are currently 49 proposals in round 1 of FY24; and a little over $7 million was awarded in that round.
	+ FY25 Round 1 will be released on March 28, 2024, with a due date of May 2, 2024.

Worker Retraining Program - *Anna Nikolaeva, WF Policy Associate & Shanna McBride, WF Program Administrator** FY24 Enrollment Trends
	+ Up 15% from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023
	+ At this time, there are no obvious patterns for the decreases in enrollments and SBCTC will be working with the colleges to review the data around increases and decreases in enrollments over the years.
* Funding Formula Update
	+ The work group came up 3 proposals for the Presidents Council to consider. These proposals will be voted on at the March 1st Council meeting.
		- No action - keep the funding formula as is, with no changes at this time.
		- Move forward with the initial proposal - an incremental rollout over a 3-year period of recalculation of the base allocation.
		- Reconvene a new workgroup, with new members while not taking any action at this time. This group would possible pursue legislative solutions.
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| * Future Meeting Dates
	+ May 20-21, 2024, Moses Lake Tour/Dinner TBD
	+ May 21, 2024 @ Big Bend Community College (Moses Lake)
* Future Meeting Topics
* Adjourn (12:47pm)
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Statutory Authority: Laws of 1999, Chapter 28C.04.390 Revised Code of Washington

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Under RCW 42.30.110, an Executive Session may be held. Action from the Executive Session may be taken, if necessary, as a result of items discussed in the Executive Session.

PLEASE NOTE: Times above are estimates only. The committee reserves the right to alter the order of the agenda. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities if requests are made at least seven days in advance. Efforts will be made to accommodate late requests. Please contact the Executive Director’s Office at 360-704-4309.