

System focus

Programs ♦ WorkSource Operations ♦ Technical Assistance

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

This month, as I continued my Cookies & Coffee visits with staff in local WorkSource offices, I was so impressed by how resilient staff have proven to be in the face of the many changes that have impacted our work over the last several months. These visits provide me a great opportunity to learn about the challenges you are dealing with, your innovative ideas for service delivery and seeing how these impact both our agency's and division's A3s.

Commissioner Peinecke released our agency's updated strategic plan (A3) and March 19th, and employee engagement is now the first goal instead of the fourth. WCDD has also finalized our A3 for the upcoming year, and both leadership and staff agreed that working together to change our workplace culture and provide professional development for staff should be our primary focus. Over the next month, WCDD Central Office and each of our four regions will put together their own plans of activities to support the work of the division and agency. As you work on these plans, keep in mind that changes with technology, integration and the implementation of WIOA in Washington help shape the new service delivery models for job seekers and employers. I look forward to seeing the how these plans unfold to engage and empower our staff to make decisions about the work we do.

~Sandy Miller

Updated Opportunity Act FAQs and Fact Sheets Posted

Updated Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA, also called Opportunity Act) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were recently posted by both the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) and the Employment Security Department. The federal resources can be found under the WIOA Technical Assistance Tools and Resources heading on DOLETA's [WIOA webpage](#). DOL also posted three new WIOA fact sheets related to [Governance and Leadership](#), [One-Stop Career Centers](#) and the [Youth Program](#).

ESD's FAQs document is available on the [WIOA Implementation page](#) on the Inside WorkSource website. The important work of designing the state's new WIOA system falls to the state's Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board (WTECB, also called the Workforce Board) and the implementation committees (Steering; Sector Strategies to Close Skill Gaps in the Workplace; Performance Accountability and ETPL; and Education and Career Pathways through Integrated Service Delivery Models). To read more, visit WTECB's [WIOA page](#). If you'd like to provide input on any issues related to the Opportunity Act, please e-mail ESD's representatives at TechnicalFAQ@esd.wa.gov.

ESD Responds to DOL Data Validation Findings with New Policy Guidance

As part of the overall effort to close the four remaining findings from the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) 2013 Data Element Validation Review, Washington recently issued policy clarifications related to records retention (WorkSource Information Notice 0066), veterans and eligible spouses point of entry (WorkSource Information Notice 0067), WIA sequence of services (WorkSource Information Notice 0068), and WIA data integrity and performance (WorkSource System Policy 1020). The policy and WINs are available on Inside WorkSource. These and other corrective actions (e.g., DOL-sponsored training, SKIES case management reports and SKIES indicators) were communicated to DOL on March 18th, and we will inform appropriate system partners as to the outcome of this latest state response to the federal findings.

WIA Dislocated Worker Funding Mitigation Released

ESD recently formula-allocated \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2015 Rapid Response statewide funds to local areas to supplement their Fiscal Year 2015 WIA Title I-B Dislocated Worker funds. The specific local allotments were communicated through [WorkSource Information Notice \(WIN\) 0065](#).

WCDD Announces RRLTU and JD NEG Forum

The Workforce Career Development Division (WCDD) will be hosting a webinar on April 10th from 9am-11am on Rapid Response Long-Term Unemployed (RRLTU) and Job Driven (JD) NEG. The session will serve as a forum to discuss some tools that are available to assist local efforts in serving our long-term unemployed. It will also provide an opportunity to have an open dialogue regarding local strategies successful in engaging the long-term unemployed and local employers. Local service providers are encouraged to participate in this webinar. More details will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

H-2A Program “Explodes” in Washington

It’s been a very busy year so far for the H-2A program. The program allows agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers to bring in foreign workers to perform agricultural labor or services.

In 2014, WCDD Central Office received a total of 85 H-2A applications requesting 9,074 foreign workers (not including special applications for sheep herders or bee keepers). By time last year, the team had received 31 applications requesting 3,640 foreign workers to supplement the domestic work force. This year, the team has already received 48 applications requesting 7,840 foreign work orders, and anticipates another 5 to 6 additional applications by the end of the month.

The team has had to be innovative in order to coordinate and process the onslaught of applications in a timely manner. For example, the team now utilizes a ListServ to notify stakeholders of applications received (prior to approving the job orders). The team also uses an e-mail distribution list to ensuring everyone gets the same information at the same time without duplication. The team is keeping electronic records, to reduce paper waste, and continues to identify additional process improvements.

OMB Super Circular Training Resources Available Online

In response to customer questions and requests, the Workforce and Career Development Division’s technical assistance and training team assembled FAQs, recorded webinars, reference materials and blog postings related to the “Super Circular” issued late last year by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These training resources were announced through WorkSource Information Notice (WIN) 0064, Change 1 and can be found on the new [Super Circular Resources page](#) on [Inside WorkSource](#).

WCDD Central Office Welcomes New Staff

As the dust settles on our reconfigured office space on the 4th floor of the Maple Park building in Olympia, WCDD Central Office is pleased to welcome several new employees to the team:

- Terri Barbee, Reemployment Services (starting April 1)
- Susan Enders (starting April 1)
- Keoni Fontaine, Lean Leader (starting April 1)
- Marra Johnson, State SKIES Training Coordinator
- Rebecca Torrence, Administrative Assistant 5

New Policy Guidance

[WIN 0064 Change 1](#):
OMB Super Circular Online
Training
[WIN 0065](#):
WIA DW
Funding Mitigation
[WIN 0066](#):
WIA Policy 3425 Rev 2
[WIN 0067](#):
System Policy 1009 Rev 2
[WIN 0068](#):
WIA Sequence of Service
[System Policy 1020](#):
Data Integrity and
Performance Policy &
Handbook

April 2015 Featured Events

None this month.



Please send us your feedback!

We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you’d like to see, or send us an article about something important to you! E-mail us at ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov.