

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

Spring is a time of renewal, and that has certainly been true for me. I'm honored to have been asked to lead WCDD through this time of transition.

One of my first responsibilities in my new role was to jump in and help move the WorkSource Innovated Technology (WIT) project over the finish line. The project had seen system configuration slide, which created data migration issues and project delays. We scheduled critical WebEx sessions with Team Monster to walk program subject matter experts through configuration, end to end, to ensure all required fields were in place. Thanks to the flexibility of required staff and partners, who had to drop other activities to make this happen, the team is assured that the new system capabilities and functions are what they need to be for serving customers.

ESD and WDC leadership agreed that moving back the launch date would increase data quality and add to confidence of staff and partners using the new system. Based on that information, leaders chose May 3 for the "soft launch" of the new system. This will give us time to provide refresher training and allow WorkSource staff some cushion to help jobseekers load their resumes into the new system. A hard launch of the new system will be announced to employers and the public at a later date to give staff time to familiarize themselves with the case management work flow for their programs.

I am excited by the work going on in our system. If you have improvement news to share, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Happy Spring,
Kelly Lindseth

Proposed WIOA Performance Targets Drafted

As part of the planning process under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), states are required to submit proposed performance levels in each of the next two years (PY 2016 and PY 2017) for the new performance measures for each core program. The programs are Title I (Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Workers), Title II Adult Basic Education, Title III Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, and Title IV Rehabilitation Services. The proposed performance levels for each of these programs can be reviewed on the [Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Boards \(WTECB\) web site](#). The public comment period closed March 21. The final proposed WIOA performance levels will be submitted with the [WIOA Combined State Plan](#) (called Talent and Prosperity for All: The Strategic Plan for Unlocking Washington's Workforce Potential), which is due to the Department of Labor and Department of Education by April 1, 2016.

Literacy/Numeracy Remains Important Under WIOA

Though the performance system for WIOA does not include the current Literacy/Numeracy measure, reporting on this measure is – and will almost certainly remain – an important element of federal performance measurement for Title I programs. The Literacy/Numeracy measure is in full effect until the end of June. Furthermore, when the new WIOA metric for "Measurable Skill Gain" is released in June, it will almost certainly require the same or similar reporting of pre-and post-test data for a significant number of program participants, including adult Title I participants not presently covered by the Literacy/Numeracy measure. The WTECB and Employment Security Department (ESD) are developing a WorkSource Information Notice (WIN) that will speak to this issue.

ESD Increases WIOA Dislocated Worker Funding

ESD is increasing local areas' WIOA FY16 Dislocated Worker grants through a distribution of \$2.5 million in statewide Rapid Response funds. The funds are being distributed by formula in accordance with the Dislocated Worker formula methodology reflected in WIOA Title I Policy 5270 (see "New Policy Guidance" below), which was recently developed by a work group comprised of ESD and local workforce development board representatives and adopted by the Workforce Board.



WorkFirst Career Scope Program Success Story: Leah

Leah, her husband and their two children relocated to Yakima from Napa, Idaho in the summer/fall of 2015 seeking a better opportunity for the family. Leah had approximately 11 years' experience in the health care field and nursing, and felt that with the demand needed in the health care field, this would be a great opportunity to get a fresh start. Leah's husband, Steve, has some medical issues that prevents him from working, but, on the positive side, this allows him to remain in the home to care for their children.

Leah, while participating in the WorkFirst program through WorkSource Yakima while on TANF, also volunteered at Heritage University on Thursdays. January 15, 2016, Leah had an interview with Yakima Regional Medical Center, and as job search continued January 21, 2016 she received a verbal commitment to hire from Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. Her assignment would be in the intensive care unit after all of the logistics were worked out with their internal departments. She started her job a week later with a starting wage of \$38.18 per hour.

Leah and her family are very excited to have this opportunity and thanked the WorkFirst program for the help as they move to back toward self-sufficiency.

When following up Leah on her experience in the WorkFirst Career Scope, she said the program allowed her the resources to look for employment opportunities while being flexible to meet her needs. She also expressed how comforting it was to know her Career Coach was there to help her when she had questions, support service needs with gas and funding for scrubs with her new position. Leah wanted to share, "Don't be afraid to ask for help!"

Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Program Lean Event Success

In January 2016, ESD's Migrant Seasonal Farmworker staff from around the state came together in Olympia to participate in the team's first Lean event to tackle the problem of late submission of quarterly MSFW reports to Department of Labor Region 6. Data review indicated reports had been submitted a minimum of two days late for each of the previous fourteen quarters—with one report as much as 104 days late.

The team began with mapping the current state. It was quickly evident that there were many different ways of completing the reports required by the MSFW staff in the field, and even more evident were the bottlenecks once those reports were submitted to Central Office staff. After some great discussions, the team identified several new ways to cut down on lead time to get their reports into Central Office, reducing the total time spent by MSFW field staff by over 50 hours. Further, the team identified ways to reduce the turn around time in Central Office by another 90 hours. The team also created standard work for their process, including a narrative report template, standardized SharePoint folders and file names, and an auto-calculating outreach log to capture outreach event details and Planned versus Actual totals by month and by quarter.

The team has completed their 30- and 60-day check ins, and report the process is working well. Great work to all involved from around the state!

New Policy Guidance

[WIOA Policy 5205 Rev1:](#)

Cash Depositories

[WIOA Policy 5255:](#)

WIOA Audit Requirements, Reports & Resolutions

[WIOA Policy 5270:](#)

WIOA Title I Formula Allotment Process & Methodology

[WIOA Policy 5412:](#)

Reporting Incidents Involving WIOA Funds

[WIOA Policy 5607 Rev1:](#)

Incumbent Worker Training

[WIOA Policy 5619:](#)

Increased Capacity Training

[WIN 0056 Change 3:](#)

Lower Living Standard Income Level by Family Size

[WIN 0073 Change 1:](#)

WIOA Operating Guidance Issued to Date by DOL Through TEGs and TENS

April 2016
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.