

WSI Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2011
111 SW 5th Ave., Suite 1150
Portland, OR

Committee Attendees: James Paulson – Chair, Warren Jimenez, Warren Fish, Bob Tackett, Elizabeth King, Travis Stovall
Staff: Andrew McGough, Tricia Ryan, Sharon McFarland, Pat Malone, Patrick Gihring, Heather Ficht, Jenny Weller

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. Quorum was announced.

2011 Funding Recommendations

Andrew McGough informed the board that the budget assumptions in the funding recommendations are based on preliminary information received from the Federal and State levels. The State projects about a 25% cut in WIA formula funds. There are also some discretionary grants that will be ending during the year. Based on this information, a number of recommendations were developed to present to the board.

McGough reviewed the 2011-2012 Budget Policy and Guidelines that are used to make funding decisions. It's important to note that over the last 6 years resources have declined almost 50%, yet demand for service has doubled. McGough reviewed the strategic plan goals which provide the framework for use of resources and budget priorities.

Pat Malone reviewed the budget assumptions. In addition to the WIA reduction, the Employer Workforce Training Funds (EWTF) are being eliminated, ARRA funding has been fully spent, and several competitive grants are winding down. This will result in about a \$5 million reduction in our budget.

Malone reviewed the WSI expense recommendations which include a reduction of 5.8 FTE and a salary freeze. Staff will continue to look for other expenses that could be cut.

Patrick Gihring reviewed the recommendations and impact for Adult and Dislocated Worker services. They had hoped to be able to develop relationships that would allow us to keep the Forest Grove Express Center open, but were unable to find partners willing to contribute resources. As a result, services will be moved to the WorkSource Center in Beaverton. We are in negotiations with HAP which will allow us to keep the Express Center at New Columbia open. Funding and services at all Centers will need to be reduced but cuts will be aligned with customer demand. Our priority is to focus on partnerships where there is actual opportunity for resource alignment.

Heather Ficht reviewed the recommendations and impact for Youth services. We are in the process of re-designing the youth system, so we can align and join with more youth system funders. The recommendation is to maintain current providers through a shared budget reduction until the next procurement which is scheduled for January 2012. The PY11 services will focus on transitioning youth to the next step and getting ready for the new model. Ficht reviewed the PY11 funding reductions rationale and impact by county. Due to continued performance issues the recommendation and process for discontinuing the Youth Employment Institute (YEI) contract was discussed.

McGough explained that as we get clarity around the funding we will develop the specific details for the budget. It's important to note that the recommendation is based on a presumed 25% reduction. If there is a material change we will need to bring other recommendations back to the board.

Paulson, who sits on the State WIB (OWIB), discussed what is going on at a State level. With the reduction in State WIA holdbacks there are questions about the impact on some initiatives. For example, the NCRC is still a priority but the question of how to fund it could become a mandate that will have to be funded locally which would impact what we can provide at the centers.

Consent Agenda

Elizabeth King motioned to accept the April 2011 minutes. Travis Stovall seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

1:08 p.m. Meeting was adjourned