



**Investors Council Meeting Notes  
King County Workforce Education Collaborative  
April 20, 2009**

**Investor Council Members Present:** Michael Brown (facilitator) The Seattle Foundation; Steve Johnson, Office of Economic Development, City of Seattle; Carol Gregory, BuRSST; George Dignan, King County; David Wertheimer, Gates Foundation; Kollin Min, Gates Foundation; Carolyn Wall, Medina Foundation; David Okimoto, United Way of King County;

**Staff:** Helena Haas, OED City of Seattle; Karin Zaugg, OED City of Seattle

**Partners:** Dan Fey, Sea-King County WDC; Anne Keeney and Rosanna Stephens, Seattle Jobs Initiative; Susan Crane, PortJobs;

**Consultants:** Jane Reisman & Anne Gienapp, Organizational Research Services; Annie Laurie Armstrong, BGCC

**Visitors:** Bob Watrus, Annie E. Casey Making Connections/ White Center CDA;

**Recorder:** Anna Brandt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Washington Intern

**Actions**

March meeting minutes approved.

**Director's Report**

- Collaborative presented at the National Fund for Workforce Solutions Peer Learning Meeting April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. We highlighted all major practice strategies and ORS presented evaluation strategies. The presentation was well attended and there were many good questions.

**On-Ramps, Bridges, Attainment Fund, and Washington Families Fund Progress Report**  
Peer Learning Group (Anne Keeney)

- Peer learning meetings (One general meeting and 2 follow-up meetings to date) Have created definitions and assessed the needs of CTCs and CBOs in relation to one another for low-income adult students to persist and complete post-secondary programs. Hand-outs defining what an entry-point, bridge, and on-ramp program are were explained.
  - Definitions:

- Entry point- an organization that doesn't offer employment and training programs
  - Bridge – education and training program that are one step away from “college ready”– ex: Developmental Edu. courses and others where you learn how to take a test, how to navigate CTC system (State Board for Community and Technical Colleges uses this definition for courses below 100 level)
  - On-ramps – more than one step away from education and training
  - Bridge Plus College – programs that provide college credits combined with pre-college skill enhancement
- Many of the peer learning group member organizations are not directly connected to community colleges.
  - Most organizations have been serving adults with a 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade education level.
  - The Peer Learning Group report will be available at the end of this week.

#### Peer Learning Discussion:

- Steve asked if the peer learning group is highlighting best practices for moving adults with 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade level education to post-secondary completion. Anne K. replied that best practices are highlighted in Features on Attachment C. She noted that the peer learning group is taking on a big cultural shift by reorienting organizations and clients to focus on pathways to postsecondary education.
- Carol noted that curriculum that BuRSST has developed may be helpful for integrating educational goals into on ramp programs. The curriculum will be available to case managers. Anne K. noted that Youthcare, Goodwill, and a partnership between SJI and Seattle Housing Authority are also involved in developing programs in education navigation and identifying best practices.
- Anne K. suggested that the skills continuum presented here will be a useful framework document for determining the attainment fund planning and Steve noted that the planning could take shape in phases .
- Carol Gregory asked if all CTCs have been involved in the discussion since different CTCs have different strategies. Anne K. noted that all CTCs are invited to the quarterly networking meeting to share information.

#### Attainment Fund (Anne Keeney)

- The attainment fund is a flexible fund to support emergency funds for students such as car repair, transportation, food, child care, utilities, and other funding assistance that is not available in a timely manner.

- SJI is convening a strategy group of advisors including WFF and the WDC to address how to:
  - Coordinate the Attainment Fund with other support service funds
  - Make it flexible and timely
  - Develop a single point of contact
  - Best use the current system instead of creating a new system
- Living Cities has pledged \$150,000 towards the attainment fund.
- Timeline: Set of recommendations will be available May 18<sup>th</sup> then capitalize it with eligibility requirements and implementation plan.

#### Attainment Fund Discussion:

- No plans have been made yet for fund management.
- Anne K. noted that the first peer meeting focused on personal support not educational support and the IC will need to determine eligibility requirements (i.e. only College for Working Adults students or also clients in bridge programs, entry programs etc.)

#### King County Washington Families Fund Steering Committee Report (George Dignan)

- The steering committee is funded by \$100,000 from the Gates Foundation to match work on homelessness/at-risk homelessness with our ambitions to get people to postsecondary attainment.
- The steering committee is aligned with Building Changes, King County Families Fund, SJI and others.
- Hired Annie Laurie Armstrong as a consultant.
- The study is in-depth with good synergy among partners to come back with substantive recommendations.
- Annie Laurie is involved to make sure voices from the homeless community are involved, with attention paid to different points in the system. The steering committee will look at responses about system policies and processes to guide thoughtful recommendations.
- Recommendations will be ready for an RFP later this summer
- David W. noted that these plans are in the exact direction the Gates Foundation would like to see this work go. He's interested in how all of the different components of the Collaborative will fit together with steering committee plans and that the committee identifies ways to ensure that the opportunity costs that frighten CTCs away from serving students with the highest barriers is addressed.

- David O. is in agreement with David W. that we need to make sure the system doesn't cream off the top. A decision needs to be made about who determines pipeline eligibility through the coordinated intake assessment.
- Kollin asked what kind of infrastructure and supports are included and suggested employment options be included in 5<sup>th</sup> Pillar.
- George noted that stimulus funds might complement these efforts well.
- Steering committee members include: Mark Putman, Debbie Knolls at KC, Matt Houghton, Rosanna at SJI.
- Recommendations will be coming back to Investors Council in August.

Weekly meetings are held to coordinate the work of Anne, George, WDC, and Susan

#### Recovery Act Planning and College Letter (Steve)

- Funding will come to the county and region through formula funding and DOL competitive funds.
- We are focused on green jobs and healthcare (in line with federal priorities).
- We are partnered with Puget Sound Regional Council to create a planning session for stimulus funds. The Collaborative has been recognized as one of the lead conveners around workforce development.
- HWFI will be regionally funded through this PSRC planning coordination – SEIU and HWFI are using Collaborative planning funds (\$50,000) to plan for use of potential stimulus funds. HWFI is building a statewide platform and the executive committee supports them. CTCs in Yakima and other locations are also leaders on this effort and while the HWFI is engaging in statewide planning, they have agreed to use our planning grant to focus on local planning efforts.
- Living Cities \$250,000 has been awarded to the Collaborative for an Energy Efficiency project. The WDC skill panel will be the regional organizing platform for the funds.
- Steve will update the letter with all of the new stimulus funding developments this week. Anyone who wants to sign as an investor is welcome; the more signatures the better.

#### Review of Outcome Evaluation Map

Jane Reisman presented the draft outcome evaluation map.

#### Discussion:

There was a discussion as to whether the outcomes listed were too individualistic to address family issues.

- Annie Laurie suggested that we might want to include family outcomes.

- David W. noted that creaming begins to occur in educational systems when some students have complex family needs.
- Michael was concerned that expanding the outcomes to the family level might make it so big that the plan is no longer feasible.
- David O. noted a shift in the plan's evolution from getting people jobs to getting people living wage jobs. He noted that social services do not address family needs well; a family based model is very powerful but would incur a dramatic change to the way services are conceived and delivered.
- We are addressing the needs of the family through the attainment fund and case management (David W.).
- While there are family challenges, there are also benefits to a family breadwinner receiving education since the whole family will benefit which can work to break multi-generational poverty (Susan).
- Carol noted that you can't separate family issues from individual pathways
- Anne G. responded that this is not a fixed map that can change given recommendations and best practices highlighted by the peer learning groups, CWA and WFF steering committee. Also, we have found good data systems to track outcomes.
- Steve noted that we are premised on family outcomes through our strategies. Our model is built on providing solutions that work for low-income adults with a family. Evaluation will require individual results and we will search for family data outcomes.

### Communications Committee

- National funders are interested in publicizing our work and Steve thinks we should ramp up in the summer on communications launch.
- Karin Zaugg Black at the Office of Economic Development has staff time in the next 3 months. Karin & Gemma would like to talk to IC members about what they would like to include in communications materials.
- Our advocacy efforts have not been clearly identified (Kollin).
- David O. noted that outside of our system change work we don't have results to show the general public.
- David W. added that launch timing should not be decided by the national funders, rather it should be determined by the Investors Council.
- Susan Crane suggested that the website be updated very soon so she can refer those interested in participating in the policy forum to more information about the Collaborative.
- Dan also noted that the group's name needs to be clarified to show our efforts are well coordinated.

Meeting adjourned.