



**SkillUp Washington
Investors Council Meeting Notes
September 21, 2009**

In attendance: Steve Johnson (City of Seattle/OED), Tina Bloomer (Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges), Brian Bosworth (FutureWorks), Carol Gregory (Burst for Prosperity), Kelly Dang (WDC), Carolyn Wall (Medina Foundation), David Okimoto (United Way of King County), Jackie Maclean (King County), David Wertheimer (Gates Foundation), Michael Brown (The Seattle Foundation), David Harrison (STEP)

Partners and Guests: George Dignan (King County), Bob Watrus (White Center CDA), Dan Fey (WDC), Heather Worthley (PortJobs), Anne Keeney (SJI)

Staff: Helena Haas (SkillUp WA/Office of Economic Development), Karin Zaugg Black (Office of Economic Development/SkillUp), Matt Houghton (Office of Economic Development), Stephanie Thomas (Office of Economic Development/SkillUp)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Harrison welcomed everyone and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. Mr. Harrison noted that there have been some developments in Asset Building and that we will revisit this subject in November.

2. Directors Report

Steve Johnson stated that there has been much work developing on On Ramp and Bridge programs as well as next steps for the Homeless/Economic Opportunity Steering Committee.

APPROVAL

3. Approve agenda and August Investors' Council minutes.

There was a motion for the August Investors Council minutes. Carol Gregory approved the minutes and David Okimoto seconded.

4. Action items from Executive Retreat

The Executive Retreat was facilitated by Nancy Ashley and was a success. Discussions at the retreat included defining the difference between investors, partners, and contributing organizations. SkillUp WA will be administered by the Seattle Foundation and not become its own nonprofit entity. Norm Rice, the new Executive Director at The Seattle Foundation, is very excited to partner with SkillUp.

Mr. Okimoto asked that since there is so much government money, does The Seattle Foundation have any restrictions on lobbying? Mr. Brown stated that this is not an issue.

At the retreat, investors decided to move forward with interviewing for the Executive Director position. The job will be filled in late fall and the new Executive Director will begin working on January 1, 2010. A small hiring committee made up of Jane Broom, David Harrison, and Michael Brown will review all applicants and interview qualified applicants in October and November. Investors agreed to vote on the nominee that the Executive Team selects and presents at the November Investors Council meeting. Investors all agreed on this process.

UPDATES

5. ARRA Proposals: ETP, local and national POP, and Health Care

Mr. Fey presented updates on the **ETP and Pathways out of Poverty Grants**. The ETP grant is due by September 4th. This is a \$3.8 million proposal over a 5 county region. The lead applicant is the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council. Overall, there are 8 training projects and the grant will reach 900 individuals. The average cost per individual is \$8,000.

Mr. Fey further explained the rules of this grant and how it is intended to help people get back to work. It would not necessarily be a good fit for CWA. The Living Cities Grant went to the Workforce Development Council. A steering committee was formed between labor and the governor's support.

The Pathways out of Poverty Grant is due September 29th. The target is disadvantaged sub-populations in areas. These areas would include Southeast Seattle, New Holly, Rainier Valley, White Center, and Beacon Hill. It would be worth \$3 million and focus on high school dropouts and veterans. Got Green and CARES of Washington will help out. They would be responsible for outreach and communication. The cost per individual would be about \$8000. It would help 40 individuals. Core training areas are deconstruction, manufacturing, and weatherization. It should be a great entry point. Helena Haas noted that another grant is available, but it is national. We will not be pursuing the national POP grant, but some exciting conversations have been held. We also do not want to jeopardize the local POP grant.

On behalf of Clytie Causing and Jaime Garcia, Ms. Haas gave an update on the **Health Care ARRA grant**. The Washington State Training and Education Coordinating Board is the lead applicant. The partners include 15 local community colleges, 15 acute care hospitals, and 7 long term care agencies. If awarded funding, thousands of health care workers could receive training dollars to move up specific career pathways. Some of the career pathways will include: 1) home health aide to certified nursing assistant (CNA), 2) CNA to LPN, 3) LPN to Advanced Degree in Nursing (ADN).

There was some discussion on how SkillUp WA operationalizes all of the grants and Mr. Wertheimer suggested that SkillUp be the main bearer of all of the data. Data would include wage progression and requirements to compile and compare.

6. Communications update – October CWA event launch date

Ms. Zaugg Black noted that the October launch event has been postponed to November. She noted that we want to combine programming and communications leaders from the investors' organizations together and plan something in November. Lastly, she noted that in the meeting packet is a new one-pager of SkillUp WA for investors to share with others.

7. Second SkillUp WA Policy Forum: Save the Date! December 4th

The next policy forum will be in December and will be coordinated by PortJobs and CEO for Cities. Ms. Worthley, from PortJobs, mentioned that panel guests will include Irwin Kirsch (author of America's Perfect Storm) as well as Betsy McKay (McDonald's in-house ESL work) and Mark Martinez (from the Roofing I-Best program).

DISCUSSION

8. Economic Opportunities for Homeless and At Risk Families planning funds

George Dignan provided an update on the Economic Opportunities for Homeless and at Risk Families and King County homeless pilot project called "Project Self Sufficiency for Homeless Families and Singles". He clarified that the King County procurement plan aligns with the goals of SkillUp Washington and the Workforce and Education Opportunities for Homeless and At Risk Families report published by Annie Laurie Armstrong. An explanation on how colleges and peer learning groups align was clarified in the Project Self Sufficiency summary. It also specifies how the Gates Foundation's "five pillars" of engagement are addressed. The project begins next month.

Mr. Johnson iterated that the plan starts with 100 families and it is a pilot program to see how systems work together to serve homeless and at risk families. Mr. Wertheimer said that it was a very ambitious undertaking and a high-risk venture: combining workforce and education services with family and housing resources. SkillUp Washington can really push the systems into alignment the best.

The goal of the second step is to expand the on ramps into different locations and to augment the care that DCHS provides. Mr. Dignan asked if SkillUp WA could provide \$70,000 in additional wrap around service funds, similar to the Attainment Fund, for this project. Investors stated that they would like to augment the costs and follow up will be needed.

9. Status of College for Working Adults (CWA) grants, Attainment fund, and data collection

Brian Bosworth provided an update on the College for Working Adults pilot projects. Mr. Bosworth noted that the recession has definitely had an impact and there are tuition concerns. We need more attention placed on CWA-like programs and colleges to see themselves as part of a larger effort. We are not sure how much they have learned from other colleges around the country. We took college representatives to a convention last April and thought it was somewhat helpful. There is a wide range of program models which all involve reduction of classroom size, simplification, registration process, embedded student support services, employer engagement and labor market.

The Medical Assisting program at North Seattle had great participation. Although, some of the students are not Pell eligible. By the time that projects had enrolled people, there was competition. Non-Pell people make too much money and they may have a higher family contribution. Many students stretch out their education because they pay as they go. We need to pay more attention to who pays tuition support. Also, how do we shape better Pell eligibility within the state?

With regards to multi-college programs, Highline Community College designed a great program for chemical dependency. We want to work with the cohorts of Bellevue, North, and Central. There would be an issue of momentum. Each of these programs was designed to last 18 months and they will run out of money in 9 months. Mr. Houghton asked if anyone was using BFED? The answer was no.

Ms. Keeney said that the Attainment Fund is only for those below 200% FPL. Each college sends invoices and then the data is entered into the database. Both the schools and SJI are inputting the data. The Attainment Fund is ready to be implemented and colleges have been provided manuals. Training on how to utilize the on-line database will take place in a couple of weeks. A manual and instructions are ready to be pulled down. Kelly Dang attached the enrollment info and flyer for Seattle Central Community College.

Mr. Harrison adjourned the meeting at 2:06 pm.