



## **Seattle King County Workforce Education Collaborative**

Investors Council Meeting Minutes

May 18th, 2009 - Noon to 2 p.m.

The Seattle Foundation

### In attendance:

Investors: David Harrison (Washington State Training and Education Coordinating Board), Steve Johnson (Office of Economic Development/City of Seattle), Michael Brown (The Seattle Foundation), David Okimoto (United Way), Jackie MacLean (King County Department of Community and Human Services), Jim Crabbe (State Board for Community and Technical Colleges)-called in, Carolyn Wall (Medina Foundation), Carol Gregory (BuRSST) , and Theresa Fujiwara (The White Center CDA)

Partners and guests: Marléna Sessions (WDC), Dan Fey (WDC), Susan Crane (Port Jobs), Jane Reisman (ORS), Anne Gienapp (ORS), Brian Bosworth (FutureWorks), Laura Rowley (SJI), Juliet Scarpa (SJI), Helena Haas (Office of Economic Development/City of Seattle), Matt Houghton (Office of Economic Development/City of Seattle), Karin Zaugg Black (Office of Economic Development), George Dignan (King County Worker Training Program), Bob Watrus (The White Center CDA), and Kurt Guenther (Guenther Media)

### Introductions and Director's Report

David Harrison welcomed the Investors and guests and asked attendants to introduce themselves. Afterwards, Steve Johnson provided an update on the letter that was sent to Community College presidents and Workforce Investment Board Executive Directors in the four county area regarding Dpt. of Labor Stimulus Funding and an RFP soon to be released for workforce development in Green Jobs and Health Care. Jim Crabbe noted a Training and Employment Notice (#4408) released by the Dept. of Labor that highlights the upcoming RFP and noted that it directed partnerships to be created with Workforce Investment Boards (See [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2755](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2755) for more details).

Steve also asked Jane Reisman to give brief updates on evaluation and the Economic Opportunities Steering Committee for the Washington Family Fund, respectively. ORS provided a two page overview that Investors are encouraged to review. Draft recommendations will be presented at the June Investor's Council meeting. The Homeless Steering Committee has met and is moving forward with its goal of presenting findings in August.

- I. Approval of the April minutes was passed.

### Discussion Items

- II. Attainment Fund

Juliet Scarpa and Laura Rowley presented background information, research, potential case management models, and basic premises for how the Attainment Fund could be utilized. Ms. Scarpa also updated the Collaborative on previous stakeholder meetings that recently occurred.

Four key documents were shared with the Council. They include:

- Attainment Fund PowerPoint
- Support Services Matrix
- Attainment Fund Feasibility Study members
- Three Attainment Fund Access Models

(These documents were emailed to Investors prior to the meeting and are available upon request.)

The foundational theme for the Attainment Fund includes the following:

- A fund of last resort
- Available only to those who are at 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below
- Services need to be flexible and timely
- Access should use the current system and be linked to case management
- There should be a single point of contact between the participant and the fund

Key Points, questions, and concerns raised by the Investors regarding the fund include:

- Living Cities is giving \$150,000 to this fund and is seeking further corporate donations on our behalf.
- Do not want to supplant general funds that currently exist. Mr. Crabbe iterated that Attainment Fund should not pay for tuition or gaps in tuition payments.
- Does access to Attainment Fund offset access to FAFSE or Pell Grants that a student may be eligible for?
- Case management needs to function fully and be robust.
- Of three case management models presented, the college prefer model #2 and the Investors prefer model #3.
- Case management model #3 allows the Collaborative more control over evaluating outcomes (both on a systems level and on an individual level).
- The fund is to be dynamic, but what is our starting point and who is our initial target group? Some members suggested that we begin simply and start with College for Working Adult students.
- What are the costs associated with the different types of case management models? More details regarding this will be presented at the next Investors Council meeting.

Due to time constraints, Seattle Jobs Initiative will ask for further feedback from the Investors in an email that Ms. Haas will distribute. They will also take a look at costs associated with the models as well as follow up on some questions posed by the group, including financial aid and how that might be impacted if a student accesses the Attainment Fund.

III. Communications Committee Update

Kurt Guenther and Karin Zaugg Black led a discussion on branding and the Collaborative’s new name. They explained that the Communications Committee had met to select a set of possible new names for the Collaborative and are presenting the top 2 choices today for the Investors Council members to weigh in on. Tag lines were also presented. There were some pros and cons expressed regarding both top choices-Skill Bridge Washington and Skill Up Washington. The majority of Investors however, preferred Skill Up Washington.

Below is a brief summary recap of some of the comments made regarding the proposed names:

<i>SKILL UP Washington</i>		<i>SKILL BRIDGE Washington</i>	
Pros:	Cons:	Pros:	Cons:
Can apply to employers and not just employees	Clear that the name suggests that workers are targeted, but doesn’t fit the systems change element to the Collaborative	Inclusive; suggests all organizations are bridging/working together	A bridge doesn’t lead us anywhere
The name is congruous with other state board initiatives across the country	The tagline below SkillUp WA is too paternalistic		

Updates

IV. College for Working Adults Conference (CWA) in Indiana sponsored by the Lumina Foundation

Brian Bosworth, who helped convene this conference, gave a brief overview of who attended the conference and what the purpose was. He stated that approximately 30 to 35 mostly public colleges attended. All of our College for Working Adults grantees attended, however the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges was unable to attend. About 105 people attended. Mr. Bosworth stated there was a lot of excitement about the concept, especially accelerating students through programs. All of the successful CWA models, which were mostly cohort based, had a heavy emphasis on student advising to help students persist through to completion and there was excellent wrap around services, such as assistance with child care, transportation, etc...New York City College has a massive intervention program that helps low income adults complete their two year degree in 3 years. While this isn’t accelerated it is better than what most working low income adults are able to do-most complete a two year degree in 4 years or longer. Mr. Bosworth stated that is important to get early buy-in from the King County colleges related to building out a CWA system/model.

V. Policy Forums:

Susan Crane reminded the group to register for the Workstation to Graduation June 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, if they haven’t already done so. This half day forum will focus on Dr. Rosenbaum’s research and will target Community College Deans, but Investors Council members are encouraged to attend. College for

Working Adult grantees will be attending and in the afternoon they will have an opportunity to meet with Dr. Rosenbaum and work specifically on issues related to their grants.

Official meeting adjourned at 1:30. Investors and partners were invited to stay for an informational meeting with local Environmental Funders.

## **Addendum to May 18<sup>th</sup> Investor's Council Meeting**

1:30 to 2:30 Meeting with Environmental Funders

### In attendance:

Collaborative Investors and Partners: David Harrison, Steve Johnson, Michael Brown, Bob Watrus, Theresa Fujiwara, Dan Fey, Marléna Sessions, Susan Crane, Brian Bosworth, Juliet Scarpa, and Helena Haas.

Guests: Savitha Pathi (The Seattle Foundation), June Wilson (Quixote Foundation), Neelima Shaw (Boeing) , Nora Burton (Sustainable Path Foundation)

David Harrison introduced the group and with the help of Steve Johnson, Juliet Scarpa, and Dan Fey, the Environmental Funders learned what the purpose of the Collaborative was, what the key initiatives were, and where there was some alignment.

### Initiatives reviewed:

- On ramps and bridge programs
- Attainment Fund
- 5 year goal of doubling the number of students who complete a post secondary education credential
- Funding to specific populations (at risk and homeless populations)
- Employer engagement: Health Care and Green Jobs
- Energy Efficiency Skill Panel facilitated by WDC
- Green jobs careers (SJI to send a map of these)
- Living Cities Energy Efficiency Grant

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.