



**Seattle King County Workforce Education Collaborative
Investors Council Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2009 - Noon to 2 p.m.
One Union Square-Board Room**

Investors Council Members In Attendance: Steve Johnson, Michael Brown, David Okimoto, Jackie MacLean, Kollin Min, David Wertheimer, Jim Crabbe (call in)

Partners in Attendance: Kris Stadelman, Marlena Sessions, Susan Crane, Danielle Sewell, Jane Reisman, Anne Gienapp, Matt Houghton, Helena Haas, George Dignan, and Matt Houghton

I. Introductions and Departure

Steve asked the group to introduce themselves and also introduced Helena Haas as the new project manager for the Collaborative. The group acknowledged Kris Stadelman's departure from the WDC of Seattle-King County and expressed their regret in her departure. Steve recognized her leadership in supporting the formation and advancement of the Collaborative. Kris will be heading the NOVA Workforce Investment Board in Silicon Valley beginning April 20th.

II. Approval of the February minutes was motioned by David Wertheimer and seconded.

III. Northwest Area Foundation (NWAf), BuRRST, & Gates Foundation grants

NWAf is contributing \$100K to the collaborative and will be joining officially next month. Their region includes 8 states and they are interested in how our work can be replicated in other states. Michael Brown will be informing NWAf of our progress, but it is unlikely that a representative from NWAf will be attending the monthly meetings. BuRSST has pledged \$30K for the 2009 budget year and we are finalizing the agreement with the Gates Foundation.

Discussion Items

IV. Community College Grants

Five community colleges (and their partners) were granted funding for the *College for Working Adults* and one planning grant was also awarded funding. Total grants are \$760,000 for 18 months. A spreadsheet detailing the awards, program focus, outcomes, and partnerships was provided. Kris Stadelman recommended that the colleges provide quarterly updates to the Investors Council. The group commended Brian Bosworth for his tireless work and leadership on this initiative.

V. Evaluation

Anne Gienapp and Jane Reisman from ORS presented the evaluation process that the Funders Collaborative has been engaged with to date and where the evaluation process is headed. Jane noted that the group is focused on tailoring evaluation outcomes that meet the Collaborative's overall objectives. Kris Stadelman noted that our approach to evaluating systems change conflicts somewhat with the National Funders Collaborative outcomes and their desire to have more individual/customer outcomes. There was discussion on how to do both and how to meet everyone's needs in as efficient manner as possible.

The question is: Are we conducting programmatic or systems building work? Furthermore, are we looking at success based on pre and post tests or systematic changes resulting from creating these new College for Working Adults programs? David Okimoto suggested that having baseline information would be ideal in order to evaluate our outcomes. The group discussed the possibility of collecting a sample of low income student data and get post secondary completion rates of those individuals. Anne Gienapp and Jane Reisman noted that they have had discussions with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Employment Security regarding data collection and they will see if it is possible to get sample data from them. Ms. Gienapp and Dr. Reisman stated that in lieu of collecting data at the state level another option would be to conduct case studies.

Michael Brown noted that we should also evaluate whether the formation of the Funders Collaborative itself is having an effect on the overall performance of the adult education and training system. (e.g., Has this group coming together made any measurable difference beyond the individual outcomes of the individual programs it is funding?)

Ms. Gienapp stated, and Kris Stadelman confirmed, that in this first phase of the College for Working Adults, we are focused on recruitment, finessing how students complete their training programs, and designing college programs that work for working adults. In the second phase, the Collaborative will take a much sharper look at individual outcomes. David Okimoto suggested that if there is a way to do both the micro and macro approach, then we should consider this approach. Steve Johnson reminded the group that ORS' recommendations to the Investors Council will propose how to balance the individual and systemic improvements that we want to measure.

In April there will be a focus group responding to draft evaluation maps. The Investors Council will hear a brief update regarding this focus group at the April Investors Council meeting.

VI. Health Care and Green Jobs Stimulus Funding

The group discussed the upcoming stimulus funding dollars that will be released via an RFP by the DOL. A draft letter from the Collaborative inviting King County Community College presidents to participate in planning meetings was circulated and discussed.

Kris Stadelman noted that there was a lot of discussion about this at the last Clean Tech Skill Panel meeting. King County has a specific individual assigned to green jobs issues and there are many organizations coming out of the wood work who are vying for the federal funding. There needs to be a systematic approach to applying for these funds. There is concern, particularly in green jobs, that colleges will create new "green technology" programs that are not stackable, replicable, or transferable.

In Health Care, college programs are somewhat better in that regard. Matt Houghton reminded the group about our Living Cities application for \$300K to create energy efficiency programs and that we are one of 8 finalists in the country. If we are awarded funding, this would be a great Starting point to leverage the DOL green jobs funding. Jim Crabbe agreed that we are more competitive if we collaborate and informed the group that the State Board has been having discussions with colleges regarding the upcoming DOL RFPs. Mr. Crabbe asked if the Collaborative would consider a statewide approach as opposed to a county or regional approach to convening for this RFP planning process. The group agreed this made sense for Health Care. Michael B. stated that the Executive Committee will discuss this request further and whether it makes sense to address the letter to colleges outside of King County. The initial thinking is that this might be a good idea.

Kris Stadelman stated that the RFP provides a great opportunity to create a new and improved college program delivery model. Jackie MacLean stated that the draft college letter needed to be worded stronger and that the signatories should be members of the Investors Council. Mr. Okimoto suggested that the letter should be signed by higher level executives such as the Mayor. Mr. Johnson stated that the more high level signatories, the better. A revised draft will be sent to specific Investors Council members within a few days for further comment and review.

Updates

V. Policy Forums:

Susan Crane announced that there will be a Policy Forum (June 5th) hosted by Port Jobs . 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 have the opportunity meet individually with Dr. Rosenbaum for part of the forum day. A few working adult students may present on what their experiences of going back to school has been like.

VI. Attainment Fund/Emergency Fund, On Ramps, and Bridge Programs:

Anne Keeney provided an update on attainment fund and peer learning meetings. She noted that a peer learning group made up of Goodwill, King County Worker Training Program, WDC of Seattle-King County, Port Jobs, YouthCare, and college Grantees discussed definitions of On Ramps and Bridge Programs. She also noted that this group will discuss in more detail which students will be eligibility for attainment funds and what the process will be for these students to receive support

VII. Washington Families Fund (WFF):

George Dignan stated that the \$100K given to the Collaborative by the Gates Foundation: Washington Families Fund Homeless Initiative is going toward developing a strategic plan of how we address the needs of homeless and at-risk homeless individuals as it relates to workforce education and training as well as how their needs tie together with the Attainment Fund, On Ramps, and Bridge Programs. Mr. Okimoto stated that he appreciated how Mr. Dignan was approaching this effort. The goal is to come back to the Investors Council with a recommendation and to fold these recommendations into a future RFP.

VIII. National Funders Collaborative Conference/Peer Learning:

The National Funders Collaborative hosted by Jobs for The Future will be held April 16th and 17th. Investors Council members are invited to participate and a draft agenda will be forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.