



## **Worker Retraining / Financial Aid Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

May 27, 2011

1:00 pm – Board Room

The members in attendance were: Kim Cambern, Sherril Koagel, Kamaria Al-Harazi, Linda Weir, Fikru Diro, Dave Cunningham, Jennifer Fenske, Sheila Rubio and Stephanie Tschanz.

Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were distributed and accepted.

Dave Cunningham provided a college update: a plan of action has been developed to deal with the Worker Retraining budget change for 2011-12 (see Kim Cambern's update below); he has been to multiple meetings at Boeing, who is anxious to increase hiring and is looking to strengthen their relationships with colleges and align college curriculum with their needs; an instructor from the automotive program (Toyota) was selected as a Top 5 automotive instructor nationwide; film students are taking part in regional and national film festivals; college budget cuts will be \$2.3 million this year and next year; Workforce Education community partner meetings will likely occur twice per year instead of once per quarter due to low turnout.

Linda Weir provided a Financial Aid update: each Workforce Education program will exceed last year's numbers of funding and students served; not much change in regular Financial Aid for students, although there will be slightly less money in the State Need Grant, and the Pell Grant will now be limited to 3 quarters/academic year, which is a return to the old practice – the 4 quarters/ academic year was temporary; there will likely be a 12% college tuition increase next year; the Enrollment and Financial Aid Services have been combined into one office so students can get all of their questions answered at the same time; currently estimate a 12 week process time for Financial Aid applications.

Kim Cambern provided an Opportunity Grant update (as Victoria Lauber was unable to attend): the program has funds for Spring and Summer; in response to Sherril Koagel's question about students taking two programs of study at the same time and only one program being eligible for OG, it was clarified that OG can only pay for the classes which are OG eligible.

Kim Cambern provided a Worker Retraining update: she distributed and discussed a handout which lists participation figures for 2010-11, including numbers of students served, credits earned, FTE amounts, funds spent, and the numbers of students in different programs of study; for 2011-12, program is receiving the same base fund amount as 2010-11 but not getting the additional funds which were received in 2010-11; the program will now fund up to \$925.00 per quarter, per student for up to two quarters and students must be enrolled full-time – these changes may be readjusted in the future if the budget allows for it; students can still be enrolled in the program for other non-funding services such as priority registration; the program will honor all previous agreements made with other agencies about which quarter(s) they would fund specific students

Sheila Rubio provided a Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program update: the program has funds available for students through Summer quarter and have submitted their 2011-12 grant for Fall-Summer quarters of the upcoming fiscal year (begins October 1, 2011) – grant contains a similar budget request as current year; there has been an approximate 50% increase in participant enrollment since 2010-11; childcare assistance through DSHS is no longer a guaranteed benefit of the program – there is now a waitlist, an income limit of 175% of FPL, and a limit to how many break periods returning BFET students can utilize without having to go on the waitlist (up to two 28 day gap periods per year).

Fikru Diro provided a WorkFirst update: he did not see a cut to WorkFirst on the state legislation update but is still waiting for confirmation; there has been a change to the participation requirement for TANF – if there is a child under a certain age in the household then one of the parents does not have to work so they can provide their own childcare, or the parents can share the participation requirement/ childcare responsibilities; TANF recipients are given priority for DSHS childcare assistance.

Kamaria Al-Harazi provided a Neighborhood House update: they have hired a new BFET staff person who will be providing job search assistance and they may be able to provide some training funds starting Fall quarter.

Stephanie Tschanz provided an Employment Security Department (ESD) update: statewide unemployment rate has gone down from 10% to 9.1%; now 13 weeks of extended benefits instead 26 weeks; she has started a bimonthly workshop to help individuals navigate the Boeing application and interviewing process – the PowerPoint and handouts are approved by Boeing, all types of positions are available at Boeing and they are especially looking for individuals with machining, automotive and/or solar experience, they also hire ESL students with experience in their native country, NSCC also offers this workshop; TB approval typically takes 1-7 days and CAT approval averages 3 weeks.

Sherril Koagel provided a Pacific Associates update: their funding is at a similar level as it was prior to receiving ARRA funds (they added staff with ARRA funds so some staff may be laid off); they are enrolling and funding for both Adult and Dislocated WIA – refer applicants to the Training Resources workshop; she is now working at the Opportunity Center for Employment and Education building.

Sherril Koagel and Kim Cambern confirmed that TRAC Associates is also enrolling and funding WIA participants.

No one has received any information recently from Snohomish WIA.

Next advisory meeting will likely take place at 9:00am in late October 2011.