

WorkFirst Local Planning Conference Call Conversations

February 19th, 2009

Call #4 – LPA Discussion of the New 2009-10 WorkFirst Delivery Agreement (WFDA)

Guest Presenters: Marie Bruin and Kristin Ockert of the SBCTC

Next Call – Thursday, March 19th from 8:30 am till 9:30 am

Sub3 Attendees: Marie Bruin, Kristin Ockert, Carl Wolfhagen, Ken Koernke, Joyce Beebe, and Kelly Lindseth

- √ Region 1 – Chelan/Douglas LPA, Grant/Adams LPA, Spokane/ Lincoln LPA, and Okanogan LPA, Tri-Counties (Colville) LPA, and Asotin/Garfield LPA
- √ Region 2 – Benton/Franklin LPA, Walla Walla/Columbia Counties LPA and Yakima/Kittitas LPA
- √ Region 3 – N. Snohomish County LPA, Skagit/San Juan Counties LPA, S. Snohomish County LPA, Whatcom County LPA, and Whidbey Island LPA
- √ Region 4 – King North LPA, King South LPA, White Center LPA, Renton LPA, and Rainier, Capital Hill, Belltown LPA
- √ Region 5 – Pierce County LPA and Kitsap County LPA
- √ Region 6 – Clark LPA, Clallam/Jefferson Counties LPA, Grays Harbor LPA, Mason County LPA, Cowlitz/Wahkiakum LPA, Thurston County LPA, and Lewis County LPA

Announcements (Kelly):

1. *Call expectations – try to limit your check-in's to one persona from the LPA – example: "Whatcom County LPA is here", this way we don't eat up all our time 'checking in' and reserve the majority of our time for the conversation and Q/A.*
2. *CTC partners reported an overall participation rate of 27% for January – this is a significant increase. Nice job colleges!*

2009-10 WorkFirst Delivery Agreement (WFDA) Presentation:

Link here for the 2009-10 WorkFirst Delivery Agreement:

http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/workforce/2009_10_workfirst_delivery_agreement_guidelines.pdf

The 2009-10 WorkFirst Delivery Agreement (Block Grant) is in the final stages of release. Given the extent to the changes to the grant this year and in response to LPA partners requesting a conference call dedicated to the new grant, I asked Marie Bruin and Kristin Ockert of the SBCTC (and major authors of the grant) to present the new grant, go over the expectations and answer questions. The following is a bulleted synopsis of that conversation:

Background

Growing costs and shrinking resources within the "TANF Box" continue to impact WorkFirst. In the fall, budget cut decisions were made based on available resources and WorkFirst priorities – all

programs were impacted. At that time, it was decided that WorkFirst could no longer fund tuition assistance for low-income adults who were not either on TANF or recently separated from TANF. This change resulted in a 31% cut to the community and technical college (CTC) system and created major pressure on those colleges who had been serving large numbers of low-income adults.

Once the SBCTC released the budget cut information to the CTC system, they sent each college a block grant planning worksheet to help colleges start thinking about how they would absorb the cut on their campuses, while still being able to offer programs and services to WorkFirst parents (some colleges, received even deeper cut's depending on whether they met their performance funding requirements). The worksheet asked colleges to:

- Think about local caseload demographics and geographics (where parents needed services available).
- Review referral and performance data. What are our outcomes for different programs?
- Other resources on their campus. Were there funding sources that could be leveraged with WorkFirst to stretch funding?
- Think about what the local partners and parents have asked for and are we meeting the needs?

The exercise was designed to help colleges begin pulling the information they would need together to develop their WFDA for the coming year.

Purpose

The WFDA is the grant to local CTCs to provide education and training programs and services to WorkFirst partners to help them go to work, increase their earning potential and ultimately become self-sufficient. Given the significance of the cut to the CTC system, the SBCTC in conjunction with their WorkFirst Advisory Committee, agreed to changes to the WorkFirst Block Grant. The changes incorporated feedback gathered from partner agencies from previous years. The following are some of those changes:

- Colleges are required to be more involved with their local partners in the development of their proposals. Colleges will need to review their data, what worked, what is needed, where service gaps are, program capacity and relevance. One suggestion is for colleges to use meet with partners individually to review prior years programming and performance and discuss what is needed to help their parents.
- There will be more time allotted to the development of the WFDA. In prior years, colleges have had very narrow windows to develop their proposals which resulted in few having the time to meet with the LPA prior to development. This year there will be six (6) full weeks to develop local WFDA's.
- Colleges will have fewer dollars to work with (31% cut plus performance cuts (in some cases)) so developing priorities of services will be critical. Colleges may not be able to offer the same menu of program as years past – and/or capacity in those programs may be diminished.
- Performance funding will depend on three (3) factors: Participation (50%), Momentum Points (40%) and Employment (10%). Services that help parents achieve participation requirements are the highest priority.

The WFDA was made available on the SBCTC website Wednesday, February 25th. See link above. Final budget planning numbers were sent out with the planning documents in the late fall. The SBCTC has **scheduled four (4) ITV meetings** with local college coordinators to work through questions regarding WFDA development. If you have questions about your budget, please contact Marie Bruin directly.

LPAs WFDA Questions:

1. **Pierce County LPA – Q.** Given the number of inmates released into the Pierce/King County area, what resources are available through the CTC's to help put these folks to work? This is a challenge for the LPA in getting some parents to work. **Marie Bruin:** Many colleges have specific programs designed to help ex-felons prepare for re-entry into the labor force including offering training programs and Bonding services. Example South Seattle Community College (Keith Marler is the contact at South). **Q.2 –** At Bates our collocated ESD staff used to run reports for us on those parents in educational activities that went to work. This person is no longer available to help us with this – is there any way we can get access to SKYS to do this report ourselves? **Marie Bruin:** I will share this with Sub3 to see if there is away for us to get college's access to SKYS.

Additional resources courtesy of Teresa Sparks at ESD –

Betty Jenne, Yakima Community Justice Center
(509) 454-3643

Terry Cupples, Tri City Community Justice Center
(509) 734-5663

Marcia Janes - Spokane Community Justice Center
(509) 363-2734

Elena Bernal, Tacoma Community Justice Center
(253) 680-2698

Tennille Johnson, Vancouver Community Justice Center
(360) 571-4358

Stephen Castellese, Seattle Community Justice Center
(206) 516-7664

Jacquie Thielen, Everett Community Justice Center
(425) 267-3084

<http://www.wa.gov/esd/oes/services/default.htm>

2. **Whidbey Island LPA – Q.** The 31% cut to the colleges, who would this impact? Marie Bruin: The 31% cut eliminated funding to serve low-income families who had no previous experience on TANF. The colleges who would feel the most impact from this cut, would be colleges who over the years who serviced high volumes of low-income adults over TANF working adults or post TANF working adults.
3. **N. Seattle LPA – Q.** Is the Comprehensive Evaluation (CE) process going away? Kelly Lindseth: No, everyone agrees that the information gained through the CE process is valuable. However, given the continued pressure for parents to participate in activities that count federally, we are looking a streamlining the process to engage parents more quickly in activities that count. CTC's should still be planning resources for CE, they just should be aware that the proposed changes to the CE flow change where those CE activities are provided (location wise).

4. **Clark LPA – Q.** Is full-time participation still the goal? What incentives will there be for pt. participation? **Marie Bruin/Kristin Ockert:** Yes, as much as possible, full-time participation is one of the goals – employment and TANF exit being another. With regards to ‘incentives’ the performance funding model rewards those colleges who a 50% or higher participation rate. For pt-participation, the only ‘incentive’ there is where a parent is reaching momentum points – a 40% goal for colleges.
5. **White Center LPA – Q.** Based on earlier DRAFTS of the WFDA, it did not appear to have incentives in all categories. Is this still the case? **Marie Bruin:** No, there are three (3) categories for performance funding – Participation (50%), Momentum (40%), and Employment (10%) – please refer the WFDA for more details on the performance funding criteria.
6. **Grays Harbor LPA – Q.** Will colleges still be able to work with PTE/X deferral parents? **Marie Bruin/Kristin Ockert:** Yes, colleges will have the ability to serve WorkFirst parents even if they are not required to meet federal participation. But colleges will need to balance how much non-countable services they provide (example full-time basic skills) with countable services so that they can meet performance and still meet parents where they are at with appropriate educational activities. **Q.2** – Will employment outcomes only count if the parent is working 30 or more hours per week? **Marie Bruin:** No, if a parent exits TANF and is working fewer than 30 they will count towards the employment target or if they exit TANF and enroll in further education they will count towards your employment performance – the key is that they are off TANF. Keep in mind if they are working 30 or more hours and off TANF the added benefit to parents is they qualify for the Career Services Program. **Q.3** – Does this include folks on Food Stamps who are no longer on TANF --- do they count for us towards our employment performance if they enroll in school full-time? **Marie Bruin:** Yes.

LPA Monthly Conference Call Schedule and Call-in Details:

Our next call will be **Thursday, March 19th, from 8:30 to 9:30 am.** Samantha Smithingell will facilitate the call.

- **Call-in #: (360) 407-3780**
- **PIN: 257901#** *(please one line per LPA unless pre-arranged with Samantha)*

Call Topic: What LPAs Need! ((Discussion))

- Be thinking about what has worked well over the years and where services to could be improved.
- Share how the NEW WFDA development process is going.

Note: Calls have been scheduled for the third (3rd) Thursday of every month through June. All calls will use the same phone and PIN number.