

April brought the return of the in person **National Association of Workforce Board's (NAWB) Forum**. This year's theme, "Transforming Potential into Workforce Power", was well received and drove up the annual attendance to near record levels. The local team included William Westmoreland, Jacquelin Earley (Sierra Pacific Industries and Previous Chair), Lynnette Buffington (Greater Grays Harbor, Inc.), and Jason Hosenev (WorkSource One-Stop Operator). The intent of the conference is to convene Workforce Leaders and Board Members to enable engagement of ideas throughout the industry. The local team attended a wide variety of sessions and spent the evenings discussing session topics and how it could impact the local system in a positive way. PacMtn attends the conference annually and budgets for 2 Board Members and 2-3 staff members to attend. If you are interested in attending next year's conference, contact Arissa De Lima.

The **WIOA Title 1b Adult/Youth/Dislocated Worker RFP** came to conclusion in April, resulting in a recommendation of Equus Workforce Solutions, the current Youth Provider, as the contract awardee. Two other providers, Career Team and Career Path Services (Current Adult/DW provider), provided strong proposals resulting in all three competing to the final round. Each proposal brought the organizations key strengths and varied approaches to meet the RFP outcome expectations. The process included a team of 8 made up of staff, board members, and workforce peers, scoring the written proposals in 4 areas (Technical, Capacity, Financial, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), and a formal presentation and interview. The interview and selection team included, the CEO, Director of Workforce Services, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, compliance and community engagement. The team met for 3 hours, across two days to discuss the proposals. The depth of experience, resources and a clear understanding of PacMtn's Integrated Service Delivery model is what that propelled Equus to unanimous consensus. The recommendation to the WDC Board was presented and Approved in our April meeting.

The quarterly **Washington Workforce Association (WWA) Board Meeting** was held in early April. This strategic event was focused on aligning the collective efforts of the state workforce councils and local legislative decision packages. The association recognizes the need to expand state funding of the public workforces system, which is largely federally funded, to give local Boards much needed resources to move those most in need to economic success. The Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) is the resulting campaign to encourage the Governor and the state Legislator to provide \$50mil annually in the state budget to expand the highly-skilled talent pool. The outcome attached to this funding will vary at the local level across the state. PacMtn would leverage increased funding to

supplement the WIOA model to increase jobseeker access to Skills Based Training (community college investments), work experience (OJT, Apprenticeships, Youth Work-Experiences) and expanded employer engagement to better align the WorkSource System to career pathways defined by our key sectors. More to come on this important topic leading in to the next legislative session.

Lacey Chamber hosted a forum focusing on the state of the local workforce. The panel included representation from workforce (William Westmoreland), the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce (David Schaffer) and South Puget Sound Community College (Jennifer Barber). The panel discussion was lively and the audience was engaged in the conversation. The focus centered around two key issues, lack of labor and developing talent.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

"Telesforo (Angel) is doing very well and is the poster child for successful system integration!

Over the past few weeks he has struggled with layoffs, lack of income and being kicked out of his house; couch surfing/living on the streets. Lewis Co. Youth TDS was able to co-enroll him in the Adult Program. Almost immediately, his adult case manager found and got him into an OJT that aligns with his career goals which will result in an employment offer should he stay the course. We have been able to braid funding and services to best meet the needs of our shared participant. I met with a second chance employer and Angel couldn't be in better hands. Having walked in the exact same shoes as Angel, he is able to be a fantastic role model for not only him, but everyone on his crew. Everyone on his crew has some experience with the justice system; whether they were incarcerated themselves or they have a close family member that is/was. Angel will be around people who have walked a very similar path and they will be able to provide guidance and support to Angel. So far, Angel has been incredibly motivated and has arrived at work 30 minutes early. He is incredibly excited and thankful for the opportunity. He has also taken this time to re-enroll with Gravity to work on completing his last 2 GED tests. I connected with Gravity staff and confirmed he is back on their caseloads. I am very proud of him and the progress he has made. He is motivated and with the right support, he will go very far."