In May, WorkSource System Operator Jason Hoseney (Career Team) led a presentation at the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) annual convening in Las Vegas. The presentation focused on recent changes in the local WorkSource System around Integrated Service Delivery. The presentation was well attended and generated much conversation around partner engagement, the role of the operator in ISD, career pathway development, and workforce board support. I was on hand to answer questions from the board and system perspective. The comments from peers across the country largely aligned to our local experiences and supported the evolving narrative of ISD in our region. More to come on this important initiative in PY22.

Our local WorkSource system continues to find success with Cohort training outcomes related to the construction sector. Redline Training, a new provider for Underground Communications Construction Training, recently wrapped up its third round of training. The participants that successfully complete the 10-day program secure certification in Directional Drill Maintenance and Operations, Ladder safety, and Mini Excavator Maintenance and Operations. These highly valuable occupational skills are in demand in the region as broadband high speed internet capacity expands into more areas. This training was identified as a key growth strategy for Enterprise Services for both the Nisqually Indian Community and The Chehalis Tribe.

PacMtn awarded a consulting contract with Lighthouse HR Consulting LLC of Chehalis WA, the success respondent of a procurement effort that concluded in May. The contract will focus on gaining a better understanding of employee opinions regarding their work environment, organizational structure analysis and recommendations, job description analysis and revisions, and compensation and benefit analysis. It will also include a comprehensive review of the Employee Handbook and related policies. The project will conclude with key recommendations by 7/1/2022. The project will likely be extend to include training and development related to a new employee evaluation model. This portion of the project will kick off in late July and conclude around October of 2022.

PacMtn is excited to announce that Justin Montermini will be joining the team in mid-June as our new Associate Director of Operations. In this role, Justin will oversee several administrative teams—IT, Communications, Quality Assurance and Contracts. Justin brings a wealth of skill and experience related this work and has a strong understanding of the state and local workforce systems.
We are sad to share that effective August 2022, PacMtn will end the Community Jobs Program. PacMtn has held this direct service contract for the past 10 years and has had great success over its tenure. Changes related to the funding model and the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have created a financial scenario that is unsustainable. PacMtn is committed to serving this population and will work closely with the Washington State Commerce Department and Department of Social and Health Services to transition to a new provider and will support their integration into our local system. We’re proud of the efforts of our program manager Kim Baker and lead case manager Nikki Crist who have been dedicated to those that they served.

PacMtn release a Labor Market Information (LMI) RFP in May. The goal of this procurement is to provide on-demand LMI reporting for PacMtn and our key system partners, and to develop a system-wide performance dashboard related the region’s Integrated Service Delivery model. The dashboard will provide real-time LMI data and information related to our systems outcomes. The interactive dashboard will be located on PacMtn’s website under Impact and is expected to go-live in the fall of 2022.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

In May, a program TDS in Lewis and Operation Supervisor spoke with a representative from Lewis County Juvenile Court about a possible partnership. In the last year, the Juvenile Court has been running an Education and Employment Training (EET) Program for high risk youth engaged with the court. During EET, youth met with staff representatives to complete 7 employment training workshops that include topics such as resume writing and interview preparation, as well as implementing values and strengths assessments. The juvenile court works closely with the WIOA youth program and saw an opportunity to partner. Our program successfully discussed details and logistics of proposing a formalized partnership in which Youth program staff would enroll and assist youth with work readiness training/workshops and the county would support youth with connection to paid work based learning (WEX) activities. This partnership highlights the strengths of both organizations and will allow WIOA youth to access additional community organizations interested in working with youth. We are working toward implementing these plans in the coming weeks and to have first set of youth enrolled by end of program year.

One of our youth participants recently obtained her GED from our Gravity partner. She is now going to attend a local community college in their nursing program to advance her employability towards a career in Healthcare. Her recent WEX at Community Integrated
Health Services, which is a newly established WEX site, has solidified this youth’s passion and career goals in healthcare!