

The Consortium of Elected Officials, Board members and staff convened at Alderbrook Resort & Spa on February 23, 2023, for PacMtn's **Winter Retreat**. This annual event is an opportunity for key partners in the region to discuss PacMtn's strategic direction and the local plan. The coming program year (PY2023) will mark the end of PacMtn's [Local Plan](#), which is set to expire on June 30, 2024. Every four years, the Department of Labor requires that each state submit an updated workforce development plan, known in Washington as the [Talent and Prosperity Plan](#). Subsequently, each local workforce development board must respond with a local plan that supports the State's plan. These plans require a significant amount of local input. PacMtn has procured PointNorth to facilitate the process of developing the local plan. In April, PointNorth will present their recommendations on how this work will be accomplished, release a tentative schedule for community input sessions, and identify the target completion date of the local draft. PacMtn will also share this information via PacMtn's website and direct communication to partners. More to come on this important task.

During the February Board meeting, which took place during the morning session of the Winter Retreat, the Board took action to open the "**Period of Negotiations**" for the System MOU/IFA annual renewal. The draft plan is the result of several months of input from key partners. Effective July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, once codified this agreement will serve the system of partners for the final year of the current local plan, which expires June 30, 2024. The period of negotiations is 3 weeks with weekly input sessions (Tuesday's at 1:30), with final input due no later than end of day March 16, 2023. On March 17, 2023, the MOU will be circulated for signature, which will be due no later than March 30, 2023. Public comments are welcome. Details related to the [process](#) and the draft plan can be found on PacMtn's website.

February marks a point of transition for PacMtn. As the system continues its efforts to execute the **One Workforce** vision and strategy, PacMtn recognized the need to better resource employer engagement and strengthen its communications strategy. To that end, PacMtn created three new roles to define and accomplish key aspects of the model. The following individuals have joined our team:

- Megan Fiess, Chief Development Officer
- Naomi Sky, Director of Business and Sector Engagement
- Emma Seymour, Communications Manager

In her CDO role, Megan will lead both Naomi and Emma with the team focusing on understanding the demand side of our work. They will focus on resourcing the system's

response and alignment to opportunities in the region. These roles will serve the entire system, with particular focus on partner needs. The team will provide a wide range of support including grant writing, fiscal management, convening, and policy work. This team complements PacMtn’s strategy team lead by Chief Strategy Officer, Korbett Mosely. Megan’s team will also lead the local plan development, including the initial draft of the PY2024 Local Plan.

The **Quest Request for Proposal** will hit the streets on March 7, 2023. Full details on the Quest program, including eligible organizations, fundable activities, target outcomes, and timeline for submissions can be found in the [RFP](#) available on our website.

Key dates include:

Request for Proposals Issued	March 7, 2023
Virtual Information Session	January 18, 2023, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM PST
Bidders Conference/ Virtual Information Session	March 15, 2023 at 11:00 AM PST to 12:00 PM PST
Deadline to Submit Questions	March 31, 2023 at 12:00 PM PST
Deadline to Submit Proposals	April 9, 2023 at 11:59 PM PST
Formal Review Process Begins	April 10, 2023
Announcement for Successful Proposals	April 17, 2023
Appeals Window	April 17-24, 2023
Contract Start Date	May 1, 2023

PacMtn staff has begun the planning process of developing the PY2023 Budget. Planning with the full board and consortium will begin at the Board Meeting and Budget Workshop on April 27, 2023. Key themes for the year include:

- Development of the local plan and expansion of the One Workforce Integrated Service Delivery Model
- Sector strategies and demand drive solutions
- Professional development and continuous improvement for system partners

- Priority population best practices with a focus on justice impacted and intergenerational poverty

These meetings are open to the public. Input is sought and welcomed.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

Provided by our partners at Equus Workforce Solutions

One of our participants was co-enrolled into Adult WIOA funding and EcSA. Participant came to us interested in completing one of our career focused cohort programs. The Participant completed our Peer Navigation training cohort and was successfully placed in a work experience. Through their work experience, they secured employment with Coastal Community Action. During the time the participant was in the program, they earned \$2,625 in incentives, with another \$1000 available as they complete 30 days in their new role.

Participant came to our program looking to obtain training to become a peer navigator after previously only working in labor. Adult funding was invested to assist with training costs associated with peer navigation training and work experience. The client started in one location for their work experience and had to be transferred to another site to complete. They worked diligently on their personal development using LinkedIn during the break between assignments, and was able to complete it with EcSA incentives. The Participant has recently been hired on at their work site and is now successfully serving clients at coastal Community Action Program in Grays Harbor.