

- March marks an important phase as we commence budget preparations for the upcoming program year. The annual **Budget Planning** meeting is scheduled for late April. For PY24, we anticipate a reduction in revenue ranging from \$1.5 to \$3 million as certain programs expire. However, we do expect our operational costs to increase slightly as we expand our focus on meeting demand. Such fluctuations in funding are customary as programs phase in and out. Notably, two programs, Quest and Opioid, are scheduled to conclude in PY24, with no foreseeable continuation. Additionally, the Pathways Home 3 program is also slated to end, although we plan to request an extension and potentially seek additional funding.

Looking ahead, we are actively pursuing additional funding to support key initiatives in the region, particularly in reentry work, partner integration, sector strategies, and the promotion of good jobs. Our target is to secure \$3-5 million to bolster these efforts.

- PacMtn is delighted to announce the addition of **Orinda Goddard** to our team. Orinda brings with her extensive expertise in Workforce Development and Tribal relations, which she will leverage in her new role as Quality Assurance Specialist at PacMtn. Her responsibilities will primarily involve supporting our contractor record-keeping efforts, conducting program eligibility determination reviews, and ensuring compliance. This newly established role aims to enhance the team's capacity to operate proactively rather than solely relying on a monitoring approach. This change is a pivotal step forward, particularly as we transition our Youth Program to smaller contract awards, thereby increasing the volume of monitoring required. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Orinda as she joins our team!
- As PacMtn progresses towards realizing our vision of a demand-driven system, it's essential to invest in our **Career Pathway** marketing collateral. This material serves as a crucial resource in aiding job seekers in making informed decisions about their careers. A fundamental responsibility of a local workforce development board is to analyze and interpret local labor market information, making it accessible for our system partners and job seekers. Understanding the opportunities within a region can be overwhelming for individuals undergoing a career transition.

To address this challenge, PacMtn is committing resources to enhance both our printed and digital materials, aiming to improve the experience for customers and partners involved in our Sector Strategies and Good Jobs initiatives. Our objective is to develop effective materials utilizing video, data, storytelling, and networking events to empower job seekers to make well-informed decisions about their future paths. This effort will focus on updating and expanding our webpages dedicated to our six priority sectors, providing comprehensive information on local employers and their top occupations.

The material will be made available for partners to rebrand as their own, integrating seamlessly into their career exploration efforts. Stay tuned for more updates in June as we plan for a soft launch of the new site.

- The past two years have presented significant challenges for our youth services. Like many local workforce development boards across the state and country, PacMtn is revitalizing our declining **Youth Programming** by shifting our focus to smaller, localized efforts aimed at achieving specific outcomes. This approach marks a departure from the traditional "region-wide" service strategy, which sought to provide uniform services across all five counties. However, this approach has yielded opposite results and failed to meet the required outcomes set by the Department of Labor.

Evidence from best practices indicates that partnering with local youth providers is a more effective way to leverage Title 1B resources and achieve desired outcomes. Moreover, it places emphasis on local youth programs, often empowering them to expand services and drive outcomes for their constituents. While this model does increase the monitoring and technical support burden for PacMtn, it is likely to enhance the experience of those being served.

In preparation for this transition, PacMtn has sought the assistance of the Capital STEM Alliance (pending board approval) to provide additional capacity and support during a

demonstration period for this new approach, scheduled to launch in May of this year. The primary focus of this partnership is to create an asset map of providers and programs in the region that offer youth services. This information will be instrumental in shaping the spring Request for Proposals (RFP) and enabling PacMtn to support awardees effectively.

- As spring approaches, it's time for our annual visit to Washington DC to attend the **National Association of Workforce Board Forum**. This gathering primarily focuses on providing Board members and staff with the opportunity to network with peers from across the country and learn from each other's experiences. This year's delegation included board members Jovon Vaughn (Willapa Harbor Chamber of Commerce) and Michael Cade (Thurston County Economic Development Council), along with staff members William Westmoreland, Melody Pajaro, Arissa De Lima, and Kellie Hale.

During their time in DC, the team had the chance to visit the National Museum of African American History & Culture, take part in an evening monument tour, and attend the Washington State convening. Additionally, William participated in meetings with the staff of Senators Murray and Cantwell, as well as Representative Kilmer, as the congress members were in recess.

The prominent topics of discussion this year included the potential reauthorization of WIOA, guaranteed income, and financial planning

Stories of Hope and Impact

Shared from our partners at Equus:

“Participant came to WIOA to “get on my feet in a pathway where I can grow and help others out and provide for myself and my daughters.” Participant has background in health care and wants to help people struggling with Mental Health. She was highly sought after during the

interviews for WEX placements, and chose to work with Gather Church. Her work at Gather was greatly appreciated and the agency offered her a positions with OJT support, full time at \$20 hour.”

Shared from our partners at the Thurston Chamber:

“Participant came to our program as a youth who was in need of training and work. Andrew showed interest and participated in our construction bootcamp cohort training put on in work with the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce. He attended class from January 22nd 2024 to February 16th 2024. In his class he obtained his Flagger, Forklift, and OSHA-10 certifications. He attended the hiring event at the graduation event where he met with many employers looking to hire within the construction/laborer field. Through our program Andrew was connected to American Pump and Electric LLC where he began a OJT with them on 3/18/24 earning \$18.50 an hour. WIOA support services provided him with all the tools needed for this position. Through this opportunity with this employer he is after the probationary training period going to be eligible to get a plumbing and electricians license through the company.”