

- **Contract season** is in full swing and the push is on to fully execute all contracts before the program year begins. The current plan is to renew with modification all title 1b contracts with the exception of the Youth fund – which will be in procurement in late May. Other contracts rolling over or expanding (EsCA Commerce specifically) will expand existing contracts. We will also be seeking support from the board to move ahead with a full WIOA procurement for PY25, which is necessary as we continue to refine our service strategy. The upcoming Youth procurement is intended to service as a “demonstration” opportunity for new partners to find space in and resources from our system. PacMtn has contracted with Capital STEM Alliance (CSA) to build an asset map of providers of youth services to help inform the upcoming youth RFP. During the demonstration period, new partners that are awarded will benefit from additional technical assistance and program support under the CSA contract. The goal is to build the capacity of regional partners to service youth under WIOA and EcSA. More news on the provider contracts can be found [here](#).
- PacMtn is excited to announce the addition of some new team members; **Matt Hanusa** (Director of Sector Strategies), **Terry Ziegler** (Accountant) and **Finance Williamson** (Accounting Specialist) recently joined our team. Both Harmoni and Terry are joining our accounting team, back filling an open position and expanding the team’s capacity to support our growing pool of funds. Matt’s role has been revised from previous iterations of the BaSE role, focusing on building sector strategies and expanding training capacity in the region – directly related key occupations employers continue to struggle to fill. Please join me in welcoming them our team!
- Our **4-year Local Plan** has been received and reviewed and forwarded by the state workforce board will be considered for action later in the month. We receive several feedback items, most of which were minor in nature. Ultimately and after some discussion, the plan was accepted. Included in this process is the **Certification of the PacMtn Board** as the local workforce board in Workforce Development Area 2. There has been a determination that 2 current members do not meet the requirements as defined in federal law. Though these positions have been filled in the same way for

some time now, it is likely that the county commissioners will need to appoint new members. More to come on these items as we learn more.

- As we approach PY24 and begin to operationalize our new local plan, staff and key partners plan to propose a **Big Hairy Audacious Goal or BHAG (pronounced bee-hag)** as a strategy to achieve our [3 primary objectives](#) established in the plan. A BHAG sets a compelling, long-term goal that is intriguing enough to inspire people to take action. BHAGs are meant to pull people out of the status quo and energize them to implement a big-picture-type plan that could take a longer time frame to complete. There are several types, and current conversations are leaning into a targeting model. Planning is also underway to change our outreach and marketing strategy to elevate key Career Pathways – those most important to fuel our local economy which in turn would produce more opportunity. Rather than focusing solely on self-directed approaches to career planning, especially as it relates to people experiencing a dislocation and youth transitioning into employment from education, an intentional campaign with the outcome in mind (filling key vacancies in the region) would increase the alignment between demand and opportunity. More conversations are planned over the summer leading into our fall retreat, at which point we hope to establish our BHAG.
- PacMtn recently worked with Parfait Bassalé to provide **Conflict Resolution Training** for WorkSource system partners and PacMtn staff. In coordination with the One-Stop Operator, system partners turned out in force and the training was a success. Partners shared positive feedback on Mr. Bassalé’s program content and more notably felt that the training strengthen our partnerships. This training sets the basis for his “Belonging Series” which PacMtn is considering continuing in PY24.

Stories of Hope and Impact

Shared from our partners at Equus:

“Participant came to WorkSource as a youth, interested in gaining skills and starting a new career, preferably in a demand field. He learned about the local labor markets as well as the Construction Cohort put on by ANEW and the Olympia Career Hub. He submitted a request and began enrolling into the Equus youth program. Training was from 1/22 – 2/16, where he got into good physical shape and earned 3 credentials (Flagger, Forklift and OSHA10). Following graduation he used his new certificates and renewed confidence to apply with Parr Lumber. Parr was excited to have the participant join their team where he builds trusses and is making more than he’s ever made, \$22/hr. He appreciates all the support he received from the Equus Team.”

“Participant came to us as a dislocated worker from his position in door-to-door work with Comcast. He had been unemployed for a while due to COVID terminating his position and needed training in order to find new work opportunities. He was able to enroll with us and join the CNC machine operator cohort in February. Since starting that class, the participant has learned a lot about CNC functions and has grown on the knowledge he had gained previously. Participant has through our programs found work with Rampage fabrication where he will be using those CNC machine skills. He started there as an OJT in April making \$35 an hour.”