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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE WORKFIRST POVERTY REDUCTION OVERSIGHT

Task Force

Post Office Box 45440, Olympia, Washington 98504-5440

Meeting Minutes |August 15, 2024 | 1pm to 3pm

Virtual Meeting

TVW Link: [https://tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2024081042](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftvw.org%2Fwatch%2F%3FeventID%3D2024081042&data=05%7C02%7Cbabette.roberts%40dshs.wa.gov%7C79180659253442e864b608dcc5f245d4%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638602891546362753%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XW3q1L44gd1z8UA2m5bd1635yg1W6ej6H4%2Bu3ckjOXU%3D&reserved=0)

**Attendance**

**Voting Members:** **Quorum? YES**

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| --- | --- |
| **Senators:** | **Representatives** |
| X | Sen. Perry Dozier | X | Rep. Mia Gregerson (co-chair)  |
| X | Sen. Manka Dhingra |  | Rep. Michelle Caldier |
|  | Sen. Chris Gildon | X | Rep. Carolyn Eslick |
|  | Sen. Joe Nguyen | X | Rep. Strom Peterson |

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| **Agency Members:** |
| X | Jilma Meneses, DSHS (co-chair) |  | Jennie Fitzpatrick, DOC |
| X | Kelly Cooper, DOH | X | Tim Probst, ESD |
| X | Matthew Frizzell, OSPI | X | Nicole Rose, DCYF |
| X | Diane Klontz, Commerce | X | Jennifer Dellinger, SBCTC |

**Non-Voting Members:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Terry Redmon, DSHS, ESA Assistant Secretary | X | Maria Siguenza, Commission on Hispanic Affairs  |
|  | Bill Craig, Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs |  | Ed Prince, Commission on African American Affairs |
|  | Omar Santana-Gomez, Office of Equity |  | Anna Minor, Office of Financial Management |
|  | Grace Yoo, WA State Women’s Commission | X | Drayton Jackson, PRWG Steering Committee |
|  | Nam Nguyen, Commission on Asian Affairs |  | Juanita Maestas, PRWG Steering Committee |
|  | Lisa Keating, WA State LGBTQ Commission (term starts after 8/2024 meeting) |  |  |

**Staff:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Lori Pfingst, DSHS/Economic Justice  | X | Charice Pidcock, DSHS/ESA/CSD (facilitator) |
| X | Babs Roberts, DSHS/Economic Justice | X | Livey Beha, DSHS/Economic Justice  |
| X | Alex Panagotacos, DSHS/Economic Justice | X | Gwen Teok, DSHS/Economic Justice |
| X | Lindsay Morgan Tracy, DSHS/Economic Justice | X | Suzy Young, DSHS/ESA/CSD |

**Presenters: Laura Han, DSHS/Aging Long Term Supports (Agency ARL discussion)**

**Opening**

Meeting opened at 1:02 pm. Housekeeping and meeting engagement rules for this virtual meeting were shared.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Representative Mia Gregerson and Secretary Jilma Meneses, co-chairs, welcomed members and attendees. Dr. Matthew Frizzell was introduced as the new representative from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction replacing Veronica Gallardo who has retired.

**Consent Agenda**

Quorum was met for this meeting. The consent agenda was itemized to include the meeting agenda and minutes from May 2024, and hearing no questions or concerns, passed without needing a vote.

**Aligned Poverty Efforts and LEWPRO Engagement**

Babs Roberts presented and reviewed the Miro Board activities from the April 2024 Retreat, summarizing the key themes that emerged from that activity and reminded LEWPRO members that they had voted at that April meeting to sunset their 5-year plan and adopt the state’s 10-year plan to reduce poverty and injustice in Washington State. Key themes are highlighted on meeting slide deck.

NOTE: at this point it was noted that closed captioning was not working.

Ms. Roberts also presented three options (based on the Miro Board activity and themes) for consideration by LEWPRO for how to move forward in alignment with the state’s larger economic justice work – currently led by the Economic Justice Alliance. Those options included:

Full Alignment – fully aligning LEWPRO as a task force in alignment with the larger economic justice work would require a few things:

1. Revise the underlying statute to support that alignment, recognize the ONE plan and support other changes relative to structure. In revising the LEWPRO statute we see several areas to update:
	1. Voting – currently only agency representatives and legislative members have a vote; it has been recommended that non-voting members shift to also have a vote. This would include the commissions, the IPAG co-chairs, Office of Equity, etc.
	2. Membership - Update the membership criteria for both the task force and the Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Group (IPAG) taking the opportunity to assess who might be missing or where there are additional opportunities.
	3. Update the duties of the task force – Update duties to remove the requirement for the 5-year plan development, adding the 10-year plan and reviewing other duties that are currently in the statute potentially adding duties relative to what was discussed today.
	4. Anything else the task force thinks might be important to review or include.
2. Restructure the meeting format ensuring that we:
	1. Continue to have the business of the task force (agenda and minute approval etc)
	2. Realign the rest of the agenda to be focused on what work is happening across the other pieces of the EJA work: Alliance Action Teams, Poverty Subcabinet, IPAG and Steering Committee with a focus on both understanding what has been happening (reporting out) but also including robust discussion of that work among the task force and each entity clearly articulating what the task force could do to move the plan forward.
	3. Make time to develop, review, update LEWPRO’s priority areas (legislative agenda).

Align within existing infrastructure – this essentially is everything described above but without revising the statute or revising in only a very limited way.

Status Quo – make no changes and continue as LEWPRO has been doing.

Ms. Roberts also provided some Pros/Cons for each option for the task force members to consider. Members were asked if there was any discussion or questions with several members indicating support for moving forward.

Rep Gregerson reminded members that this is being presented in preparation for a vote in November and the intent to help LEWPRO create an action orientated Task Force. Secretary Meneses agreed – we want to be an action-oriented Task Force which requires more dialogue and voting. Tim Probst concurred. Maria Siquenza provided her perspective as a member of both this task force and the Poverty Reduction Work Group since inception, expressing her support for full alignment. Representative Eslick expressed her support for a full alignment model / model that would move the Task Force to an action orientation. Senator Dhingra also indicated support for full alignment.

Members were reminded that these options are being presented to them at this meeting for consideration and will be voted on at the next scheduled LEWPRO meeting. Members were offered opportunity between this meeting and next for individual discussions to ensure clarity.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was provided by:

* Jennifer Bereskin SeaMonster, PRWG Steering Committee - support of the discussion and work of the Task Force, reminding us that it is important to keep the voice of the people in the forefront of doing the work.
* Marcy Bowers, Poverty Action Network

**Possible Agency Request Legislation**

Agency representatives shared potential request legislation concepts being considered for the upcoming legislative session reminding members and attendees that none of these concepts had been shared yet with the Executive Branch and have not yet been given Governor or OFM approval.

* Economic Justice Alliance
* Dept Children Youth and Families
* Dept of Commerce
* Dept of Health

NOTE: Closed Captioning was not able to be fixed. Asked members to use the TVW livestreaming CC option – will fix this before the next meeting.

* Dept of Social and Health Services
* Employment Security Department
* State Board for Community Technical Colleges

**Public Comment**

Public Comments were shared by:

* Czar Carter, PRWG Steering Committee asked a question: who is going to do the accountability tracking – hold agencies accountable and track their progress; how do we make sure things don’t get lost? when will reports be do and who will they be presented to or will they be posted online? The facilitator noted that we are using this time as active listening and will respond to questions in follow up.
* Erika Walker, Poverty Action Network - provided comment for Jonathan Hemphill (steering committee) as well as comments from Poverty Action Network.
* Kristina, PRWG Steering Committee.
	+ Diane Klontz thanked her for her comment and indicated she would follow up
* Tim Probst, ESD.

**Good of the Order**

The next LEWPRO meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024, from 9am to noon. The meeting was adjourned by Secretary Meneses at 2:48 pm with her thanks for their participation today.

**Attachments/Links**

* **Rep. Gregerson reminder email with meeting materials**
* [WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force, Legislative-Executive | Governor Jay Inslee (wa.gov)d](https://governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/workgroups-task-forces/workfirst-poverty-reduction-oversight-task-force-legislative-executive)