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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 |April 3, 2024 | 9am to 12pm

Virtual Meeting

([Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force - TVW](https://tvw.org/video/legislative-executive-workfirst-poverty-reduction-oversight-task-force-2024041019/?eventID=2024041019))

**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 |  | Rep. Strom Peterson |

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| **Agency Members:** | | | |
| X | Jilma Meneses, DSHS (co-chair) | X | Jennie Fitzpatrick, DOC |
| X | Cindil Redick-Ponte, DOH | X | Tim Probst, ESD |
| X | Veronica Gallardo, OSPI | X | Nicole Rose, DCYF |
| X | Diane Klontz (Katie Meehan proxy), Commerce | X | Jennifer Dellinger, SBCTC |

**Non-Voting Members:**

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| X | 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 |
| X | 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 |
|  | , WA State LGBTQ Commission |  |  |

**Staff:**

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

**Presenters: None**

**Opening**

Meeting opened at 9:02am. 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**

Facilitator confirmed a quorum was present. Members had no questions or discussion and the consent agenda was approved.

**Planning for 2024**

See Handouts (bill document 1482, 2 plan comparison document). Babs Roberts and Lori Pfingst presented materials to prepare the task force to give the required statutory direction to DSHS as it relates to its 5 Year Plan. Referenced the recommendation presented in November 2023 meeting from the Steering Committee advising LEWPRO to adopt the 10 Year Plan. They presented historical context on why there are two plans and how we got there. Reminded LEWPRO of the statutory requirement to complete a 5 year plan (done) and by December 1, 2024, LEWPRO must direct the department on what to do next. Intent is to give the historical context, put a recommendation on the table, and discuss/vote.

Lori Pfingst walked through timeline and history of Poverty Reduction Efforts culminating in rebranding of the work under one umbrella – Washington Economic Justice Alliance. She spoke to how the varying groups work together under this umbrella.

Overview of differences between the LEWPRO 5 Year Plan and Alliance 10 Year plan. Details in handouts. Presented information on impact of the actions taken since both plans were finalized. Referenced pending Impact Report.

PRWG Recommendation is for LEWPRO to adopt the 10 YP moving forward and allow the 5 Year Plan to sunset. Drayton Jackson spoke to that recommendation.

Questions from membership were heard. Rep. Gregerson asked to hear about the differences between the two plans before we move to Public Comment. That agenda item was moved up.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was provided by Lianna Kressin, Statewide Poverty Action Network, in support of the recommendation. Another commenter was unable to connect.

**Planning for 2024 - Overview of differences and similarities**

***(moved to before public comment*)** Babs reviewed the comparison document highlighting the two areas that are in the 5 year plan but not the 10 year plan and the 4 areas that are in the 10 Year plan and not in the 5 year plan. Clarified that oversight of the TANF program is a different part of the LEWPRO statute and is not impacted by adoption of the 10 year plan or sun setting of the 5 year plan. Some of the differences may be a result of the broader stakeholder work that was conducted in relation to the 10 year plan.

Member discussion and questions included clarifying details re: plan development and timelines, and discussion of how COVID and the changing world may impact the efficacy of both plans. Much of the 10 year plan is still very relevant even post-COVID; COVID illuminated the basic information and research that formed the plan. Specific questions re: the two areas that were added to the 5 year plan relative to TANF and if those are either encapsulated in the 10 Year Plan and, if not, are they still relevant. Belief that they are encapsulated in the 10 Year plan (strategy 6). Members expressed support for focusing on one plan and moving it to implementation.

**(*after public comment***) No further discussion put forward.  Secretary Menses called for a motion.  Rep Gregerson motioned for the Task Force to adopt the 10YP.  Cindil (Department of Health) seconded. **9 members voting yea, no nay votes.  Motion passes.**

**Planning for 2024 – Readiness assessment & adoption of the 10 Year Plan / Future vision, moving to action**

Miro board activity – 4 questions: see separate attachment with synthesis of that activity. [LEWPRO April 3, 2024 Miro Board Notes](https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/LEWPRO%20Miro%20Board%2020240403_0.pdf). Co-chairs expressed appreciation for the activity and the input.

**Public Comment**

Public Comments were shared by Lianna Kressin, Statewide Poverty Action Network, appreciated the meeting and the activities, the focus on equity. Thank you for spending time to figure out how we all work together to reduce poverty.

**Good of the Order**

Secretary Meneses closed out the meeting. Rep Gregerson thanked everyone for their participation and engagement. Secretary Meneses thanked the Legislative members for their hard work during the recent legislative session. Both co-chairs expressed appreciation to staff for their work. The next LEWPRO meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2024 from 9am to noon. The meeting adjourned at 10:38am.