



LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE WORKFIRST POVERTY REDUCTION OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes | May 15, 2025 | 9am to Noon

Virtual Meeting

TVW Link: <https://twv.org/watch/?eventID=2025051036>

Attendance

Voting Members:

Quorum? YES / NO

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

Agency Members:

X	Cherly Strange, DSHS (co-chair)		Jennie Fitzpatrick, DOC
X	Colleen Thompson, DOH	X	Tim Probst, ESD
	Matthew Frizzell, OSPI	X	Nicole Rose, DCYF
	, Commerce	X	Jennifer Dellinger, SBCTC

Non-Voting Members:

X	Lisa Keating, WA State LGBTQ Commission (term starts after 8/2024 meeting)	X	Maria Siguenza, Commission on Hispanic Affairs
	Tim Reynon, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs		Ed Prince, Commission on African American Affairs
	Omar Santana-Gomez, Office of Equity	X	Anna Minor, Office of Financial Management
	Andrea Carrillo, WA State Women's Commission	X	Johnathan Hemphill, Advisory Council
X	Nam Nguyen, Commission on Asian Affairs (delegate attended – Negheen Kamkar)	X	Amy Martinez, Advisory Council

Staff:

X	Lori Pfingst, DSHS/Economic Justice	X	Lindsay Morgan Tracy, DSHS/Economic Justice
X	Babs Roberts, DSHS/Economic Justice	X	Livey Beha, DSHS/Economic Justice
		X	Gwen Teok, DSHS/Economic Justice

Presenters:

Opening

Meeting opened at 9:02 AM. Housekeeping and meeting engagement rules for this virtual meeting were shared.

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Mia Gregerson and Interim Secretary Cheryl Strange, co-chairs, welcomed members and attendees. New members were recognized and included:

- Senator Liz Lovelett, 40th Legislative District
- Tim Reynon, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Colleen Thompson, Department of Health

Consent Agenda

Quorum was not met for this meeting. The consent agenda was itemized to include May 15 agenda, November 2024 Minutes, TANF Spending Plan update and Workfirst Outcome Measures. Approval of the consent agenda was tabled to August 2025 meeting as no quorum. Secretary Strange reviewed today's agenda. Rep Gregerson requested that an updated member roster be distributed to the members.

Public Comment

Public comment was provided by:

- Dona Christianson – thank the leaders and members for their leadership in this important work, continuing to address the issues impacting the people in this state experiencing poverty.
- Drayton Jackson – also appreciate the work of this task force, appreciate the legislators for their work over this really difficult session, understanding the difficult decisions they needed to make. Believes that the work we've done to date prepared us for this time.

Economic Justice Alliance Updates

Advisory Council - Co-chair Update: Livey Beha, Senior Program Manager, staff support to advisory council moderated a discussion of Advisory Council Co-chairs: Johnathan Hemphill and Amy Martinez. Discussion allowed LEWPRO to get to know the new Advisory Council co-chairs, hear their thoughts regarding the direction of the Advisory Council and the renaissance that council has finalized.

Alliance Architecture – Next Steps: Lori Pfingst, Senior Director, expressed gratitude to the Advisory Council Co-chairs and to Secretary Strange who was instrumental in the early days of the poverty reduction work and this task force. She also spoke briefly about the moment we're facing, the changes at both the state and federal level and updated the Task Force on the work the team has been doing to help orient new leaders to this work while giving grace and understanding that many new leaders are very busy.

Other Task Force Business: Babs Roberts, Senior Advisor, spoke briefly reminding Task Force members of the Congressional letter re: SNAP & Medicaid impact in Washington State and let the members know that a small working group will form to push forward the review of current LEWPRO statute and make recommendations for the Task Force members to consider. Anyone wanting to participate should email Babs or the LEWPRO email box (LEWPRO@dshs.wa.gov).

Intersection of Poverty and Technology/AI - Foundation

The first of a 3 part series that will look at the intersection of Poverty and Technology. Recognizing that technology and the technology revolution represents both a potential promising opportunity that can help the work of reducing poverty, increasing access and bolster the health and human services systems. However, the technology revolution will also likely leave some people behind and we need to consider how to mitigate those potential negative impacts. The series will focus on both sides of that spectrum. This presentation starts with idea that increasing technology is contributing to workforce disruption and what strategies we might consider to mitigate the impact.

Presentation was done by Dr. Elizabeth Rhodes from OpenResearch regarding an objective analysis of a guaranteed basic income pilot. The slide deck is posted under the May 2025 Meeting on the LEWPRO Task Force site. Motivation for their study was rooted in concerns about the impact of technology advancements (like AI) on jobs; that GDP growth dwarfed growth in median income; drastic increases in income inequality; increase in share of new jobs that are contracted or "gig" jobs as well as concerns regarding the limitations of the existing social safety net and structural barriers to economic security and mobility. Wanted to ask the bigger questions and explore guaranteed income as a possible solution from a lens of objective research rather than a referendum on universal basic income.

Dr. Rhodes explained the scope of the study and that they found that the impacts and outcomes were as varied as the number of participants and that averages did not tell the whole story, however, the one "through line" in their findings is that unconditional cash did give participants a sense of agency over their lives.

After reviewing a variety of findings across a spectrum of outcomes, the members had time to ask questions.

Federal Funding Landscape

Tip Wonhoff from DSHS, Facilities, Finance and Analytics Administration gave an overview of the DSHS federal funds before discussing the continually evolving federal funding landscape, emphasizing that much is still not clear. He was able to provide context for potential impacts to the departments and the people the department serves and what the department is doing to prepare for final federal decisions.

State Legislative Update

Rep. Gregerson gave an overview of some of the work done by the legislature during the last session and invited other legislative and executive members to provide some insight.

Public Comment

There were no public comments requested.

Good of the Order

The next LEWPRO meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025, from 9am to noon. The meeting was adjourned by Secretary Strange at 11:27 am with her thanks for their participation today.

Attachments/Links

[WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force | Governor Bob Ferguson](#) - The agenda, consent agenda items and slide decks for this meeting are posted here.

[Home - Washington Economic Justice Alliance](#)