

**LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE WORKFIRST POVERTY REDUCTION OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE**

Meeting Minutes |August 21, 2025 | 9am to Noon

Virtual Meeting

TVW Link: [Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force - TVW](https://tvw.org/video/legislative-executive-workfirst-poverty-reduction-oversight-task-force-2025081033/?eventID=2025081033)

**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 |
| X | Sen. Liz Lovelett |  | Rep. Strom Peterson |

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| **Agency Members:** | | | |
|  | Bea Rector, DSHS (co-chair) |  | Jennie Fitzpatrick, DOC |
| X | Colleen Thompson, DOH (delegate attended – Kathaleen Deane) | X | Dan Zeitlin, ESD |
| X | Matthew Frizzell, OSPI | X | Nicole Rose, DCYF |
| X | Daniel Zavala , Commerce | X | Jennifer Dellinger, SBCTC |

**Non-Voting Members:**

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|  | 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 |
| X | Omar Santana-Gomez, Office of Equity |  | Anna Minor, Office of Financial Management |
|  | Andrea Carrillo, WA State Women’s Commission | X | Johnathan Hemphill, Advisory Council |
|  | Nam Nguyen, Commission on Asian Affairs | X | Amy Martinez, Advisory Council |
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**Staff:**

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| 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 |
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**Presenters HR.1 Panel:**

* **Carla Reyes, Assistant Secretary, DSHS/Economic Services Administration**
* **Jason McGill, Assistant Director, Health Care Authority, MPD**
* **Shirley Prasad, Director, Washington Health Benefit Exchange, Government Affairs**
* **Sarah Peterson, Director, DSHS/ESA, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance**

**Opening**

Meeting opened at 9:03 AM. Housekeeping and meeting engagement rules for this virtual meeting were shared.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Representative Mia Gregerson welcomed members and attendees. New members were recognized and included:

* Senator Liz Lovelett, 40th Legislative District
* Dan Zeitlin, Employment Security Department
* Daniel Zavala, Department of Commerce

**Consent Agenda**

Quorum was met for this meeting. The consent agenda was itemized to include May 15 and August 21, Agenda, November 2024 and May 2025 Minutes, TANF Spending Plan update and WorkFirst Outcome Measures. With no concerns or comments the consent agenda was approved. Link to items was included in chat.

**Advisory Council Updates**

Livey Beha, Senior Program Manager, staff support to advisory council, introduced the co-chairs: Johnathan Hemphill and Amy Martinez. Amy began with an update of work of Advisory Council over the summer including preparing for the significant shifts that are going on both federally and at the state level with a focus on identifying priority areas for the upcoming legislative session with the voices of community and lived experience. Additionally, the Advisory Council is working to seek and elevate aligned initiatives. Johnathan also spoke, asking the Task Force to reflect on two questions:

* What does it mean to truly implement community-generated solutions fully, faithfully and without watering them down?
* If you woke tomorrow and gain the power to co-create a whole new reality, how would you do it in the role you have right now? How can we forward integrity into the time and work people put into the 10 Year Plan and how can you maximize those roles to create a better reality for everyone?

Johnathan concluded by reminding the task force members that in their discussions today to think about solutions in terms of community. Amy concluded with a commitment to work in collaboration with LEWPRO to ensure communities remain at the center of our work.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was provided by:

* Alina Swart – shared her concerns regarding One Big, Beautiful Bill.
* Erika Walker Garcia – representing Statewide Poverty Action Network. Support of need for revenue in Washington state.

**HR.1 Implementation**

Key staff from across the state agencies formed a panel to discuss the impacts of HR.1, the Big, Beautiful Bill. The panel consisted of:

* Lori Pfingst, Executive Director, DSHS/Office of the Secretary, Economic Justice Alliance
* Johnathan Hemphill, co-chair, Alliance Advisory Council
* Carla Reyes, Assistant Secretary, DSHS/Economic Services Administration
* Jason McGill, Assistant Director, Health Care Authority, MPD
* Shirley Prasad, Director, Washington Health Benefit Exchange, Government Affairs
* Sarah Peterson, Director, DSHS/ESA, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance
* Jennifer Dellinger, Policy Associate, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Lori opened the panel session with some discussion of how the changes in HR.1 will have a compounding and profound impact on Washington’s Poverty Reduction efforts and more importantly, to Washingtonians.

Johnathan Hemphill, co-chair of the Alliance Advisory Council, gave a few words regarding the importance of our work in the face of widespread, systemic collapse that will impact all of us.

Panel members spoke to SNAP, Medicaid, ACA marketplace, Immigration, and student financial aid and downstream impacts on post-secondary students and systems. Lori Pfingst briefly went over the economic impacts in Washington as these changes unfold. And the panel closed out with a few additional words from Johnathan Hemphill.

A question and answer and discussion followed the panel presentations.

**Strengthening Legislative-Executive Collaboration**

Babs Roberts gave the Task Force an update related to the work related to updating the statute authorizing LEWPRO to align with the decisions made by LEWPRO last year to clarify intent, change the name, update and revise membership and voting structure, update duties to reflect alignment decisions and update the Advisory Council to reflect changes that entity has made. Next meeting will include more detailed discussion about the changes and likely a decision point regarding the mechanism for moving these changes forward.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was provided by:

* Miranda – thanked the Task Force for their hard work. concerned about the impacts of HR.1 on Washington citizens, especially impoverished persons.

**Good of the Order**

Representative Gregerson reminded attendees about the LEWPRO website and email box. The next LEWPRO meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025, from 9am to noon. The meeting was adjourned by Representative Gregerson at 11:44 am with her thanks for their participation today.

**Attachments/Links**

[WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force | Governor Bob Ferguson](https://governor.wa.gov/boards-and-commissions/workgroups-task-forces/workfirst-poverty-reduction-oversight-task-force) - The agenda, consent agenda items and slide decks for this meeting are posted here.

[Home - Washington Economic Justice Alliance](https://waeconomicjusticealliance.com/)