



# Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

## Meeting details

**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Virtual meeting due to COVID-19

### Committee members present

- Michele Besso
- Jonathan DeVaney
- Michael Gempler
- Delia Peña
- Jeff Perrault
- Victoria Ruddy

### Non-voting agency representatives

- Uriel Iniguez
- Ignacio Marquez
- Todd Phillips

### Committee members absent

- Rosalinda Guillen
- Ramon Torres

### ESD staff

- Dan Zeitlin
- Alberto Isiordia
- Norma Chavez
- Rene Maldonado
- Tamara Johnson
- Gustavo Aviles
- Craig Carroll
- Juan Martinez

## Summary

### Meeting Recorded

This meeting was recorded and is available on <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/Ag-committee>

### Welcome and Introductions

Employment Security Department (ESD) Policy Director, Dan Zeitlin, welcomed everyone and asked Tamara Johnson to take roll. Roll was taken and it was determined that we did not have a quorum so the meeting start was delayed until other committee members could join.

### Agenda

Recording timestamp **00:19:15**

Dan Zeitlin reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions. (See Addendum I.)

### Welcome New Members

Recording timestamp **00:22:17**

Dan Zeitlin welcomed Jeff Perrault and Victoria Ruddy to the ASWS Advisory committee.

### Meeting Minutes

Recording timestamp **00:21:52**

Dan Zeitlin requested that everyone review the meeting minutes for December 17, 2020 and provide their feedback. Jon DeVaney made a motion to approve the minutes for December 17, 2020. Mike Gempler seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

**Committee Organization**Recording timestamp **00:25:26**

Term limits:

Employers Representatives:

2yr: Jon DeVaney and Mike Gempler

4yr: Delia Pena and Jeff Perrault

Worker Representatives - TBD

**ASWS 2020 Report**Recording timestamp **00:28:00**

Dan Zeitlin highlighted a change made to the report by OFM to figure 14 on page 38.

Letters to ASWS committee members, Senators and State Representatives with a link to the final report are in Commissioner Suzi LeVine's office and should be sent out shortly.

**ASWS Office Update**Recording timestamp **00:34:29**

Three compliance specialists were hired with January 16 and Feb 1 start dates.

**Budget Discussion**Recording timestamp **00:40:46**

Jon DeVaney wanted to discuss the FLC budget. The funding level for FLC has not been increased in over a decade even though the program had gotten larger. The FLC grant was increased at the federal level by 40%. ESD will receive a TEGL to determine how the money may be spent. Jon DeVaney suggested ways committee members may engage at the federal level.

**Update on Report Recommendations**Recording timestamp **00:57:27**

Norma Chavez reviewed the action plan ESD has created to move forward the recommendations the Advisory Committee suggested in the report.

**Agency Coordination**Recording timestamp **1:14:39**

Weekly meetings include:

Outreach coordination – includes Governor's office ESD, DOH, L&amp;I (DOSH, Community relations)

Enforcement discussion – lead by Governor's office includes ESD, DOH, L&amp;I, Dept of Ag, Asst AG office

COVID-19 testing - lead by Governor's office includes ESD, L&amp;I, Dept of Ag, DOH

**L&I Updates**Recording timestamp **1:27:25**

- First wildfire smoke rulemaking meeting is this afternoon.
- L&I issued another emergency rule on temporary worker housing (TWH).

L&amp;I answers to questions posed by committee members:

**1. TWH- the rules did not address workers who are vaccinated or tested. Are we going to talk with DOH and update the rules?**

L&I is collaboratively working with DOH to address any updates that are necessary as we gain more information about employees being vaccinated. At this time there are too many unknowns related to vaccine distribution and availability. This is something we routinely discuss and track. DOH and L&I will be sending updates on some of these issues in the near future.

**2. Request for inspection report.**

The yearly inspection report has not been completed and it will be shared when it is done. The report should be coming out in the next two weeks.

**3. Are we communicating with ESD when we conduct inspections on H-2A?**

ESD has communicated with the L&I DOSH Assistant Director and is scheduling regular meeting to discuss completed inspections with citations in relation to H-2A employers.

**DOH Updates**Recording timestamp 1:34:34

Updates on COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in the agricultural community.

**Closing Discussion**Recording timestamp 1:55:22

The committee talked about having facilitated discussion to determine committee goals. Overall the committee would prefer not to us a facilitator unless really necessary.

**Agenda Items**Recording timestamp 1:57:08

- What committee can do to support and guide ESD with recommendations.
- Map out goals for the year which includes following up on the recommendations.
- Map out time frames and what discussions we need to prioritize.
- Operational planning (field checks/field visits) updates
- Vaccination updates
- Legislative updates

**Legislative & Federal Updates**Recording timestamp 02:08:30

The USDOL put out final H-2A rules which were withdrawn yesterday.

**Public Comments**Recording timestamp 02:12:30

No public comments

**Adjourned**

Dan Zeitlin thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, then ended the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

**2020 Meetings**

The next Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meeting is on:

- **February 18, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - WebEx Meeting**

Addendums

ADDENDUM I



AGENDA

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS)  
 Advisory Committee  
 Thursday, January 21, 2021 | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | WebEx

Agenda Items

TIME	TOPIC
8:30 am	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome from Dan Zeitlin, Director, ESD Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity Division &amp; Norma Chavez, Director – Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services</li> <li>Agenda Review</li> </ul>
8:40 am	Approval of Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 17, 2020</li> </ul>
8:45 am	Welcome New Members – Dan Zeitlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victoria Ruddy</li> <li>Jeff Perrault</li> </ul>
9:00 am	Committee Organization – Dan Zeitlin
9:10 am	ASWS 2020 Report – Dan Zeitlin
9:20 am	ASWS Office Update – Norma Chavez
9:30 am	Update on Report Recommendations – Norma Chavez
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Agency Coordination – Norma Chavez
10:25 am	L&I Update – Uriel Iniguez & Ryan Allen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildfire Smoke Rules</li> </ul>
10:30 am	DOH Update – Todd Phillips & Frank Ameduri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covid-19 Testing</li> </ul>
10:50 am	Closing Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next Agenda Items                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated Discussion – Committee Goals in 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11:25 am	Public Comments
11:30 am	Adjourn

GROUND RULES

No side conversations | Phones on silent | Let people speak without interruption | Respect the opinion of others | Strive for understanding | Speak your mind | Strive for common ground | Assume good intent | Stay focused on task at hand and be willing to come back to the topic | Make sure everyone understands | Look out for each other | Take care of your own comfort | Ask for what you need

Contact information

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*Employment Security Department • Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity*