



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

Meeting details

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual meeting due to COVID-19

Committee members present

- Jonathan DeVaney
- Jeff Perrault
- Victoria Ruddy
- Michele Besso

Non-voting agency representatives

- Todd Phillips

Committee members absent

- Ramon Torres
- Rosalinda Guillen
- Michael Gempler
- Delia Peña
- Uriel Iniguez
- Ignacio Marquez

ESD staff

- Dan Zeitlin
- Norma Chavez
- Alberto Isiordia
- Juan Martinez
- Rene Maldonado
- Cara Mia Stearns-Vance
- Oscar Cerda
- Ana Alcala-Rodriguez
- Tamara Johnson

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.

Suggestion was made by Jon DeVaney that we continue with the meeting anyway and wait to vote on anything until our next meeting. Dan Zeitlin asked if there were any objections from other committee members to continue the meeting, hearing none, the meeting continued.

Meeting Minutes

Dan Zeitlin stated that since we didn't have quorum, we would delay approval of June 17, 2021 meeting minutes until our next meeting.

Agenda

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

Recording timestamp **00:07:43**

ASWS Office Update

Recording timestamp **00:09:40**

Oscar Cerda reported the office is currently recruiting for compliance specialists to be located in Auburn, Kennewick, Omak, and Walla Walla. Oscar also presented a state coverage map for the compliance unit staff. (See Addendum II.)

H-2A Application Data Report

Recording timestamp **00:26:49**

Cara Mia Stearns-Vance reported on H-2A application data.

	2021		2020	
Status of Applications	# of Applications	# of Workers Requested/ Labor Certifications*	# of Applications	# of Workers Requested/ Labor Certifications*
Received/Processed	327	29,236	305	28,953
Commenced	262	22,987	232	20,481
Withdrawn	10	565	4	

*The numbers reported are not reflective of the number of foreign workers that actually arrive in Washington State.

WorkSource Office Reopening – Alberto Isiordia

Recording timestamp **00:35:40**

Alberto Isiordia reported on WorkSource office reopening. All the offices have opened to the public to coincide with the reinstatement that UI claimants actively search for work. Media campaigns in both English and Spanish are being heard in the Yakima region.

Worker Referral Updates – Juan Martinez & Ana Alcala-Rodriguez

Recording timestamp **00:55:45**

We are following up weekly with all of the offices regarding H-2A job orders, placements, and agency coordination. (See Addendum III)

Michele Besso (NWJP): Insight as to why no placements?

Ana’s response: A lot of factors, but field staff report biggest factor for job seekers is they are looking for stable sustainable year-round work.

L & I Updates – Uriel Iniguez, Cat Gregersen

Recording timestamp **00:57:00**

L&I Inspections – Uriel Iniguez

Wildfire Smoke Rules update – Cat Gregersen

Recording timestamp **00:58:12**

Michele Besso (NWJP): Any reports for any heat related illnesses?

Uriel Iniguez: I have been checking and we haven’t had any claims coming in from the agricultural industry.

Jon DeVaney (WSTFA): Appreciate the very valuable data, a couple clarifications that would be helpful.

Second page where citations by WAC category. 296.307.045 - In terms of where violations are occurring it would be helpful to have general language that would offer specifics. Section page 6 Violation by WAC one of the biggest categories is first aid. Would it be possible to get more specifics on what violations are the problem? It is very general.

Uriel Iniguez (L&I): I could have someone come to answer questions for the next meeting.

DOH Updates – Todd Phillips, Michelle Holshue, Darius Bazemore, Liz Clark

Recording timestamp **01:12:00**

Michelle Holshue, Darius Bazemore, Liz Clark presented:

Testing Vaccine Update – Agricultural Workers (See Addendum IV.)

Future Agenda Items

Recording timestamp **01:38:08**

- Compliance Unit

- Recommendations updates – Referrals & Recruitment

Public Comments

None

Adjourned

Dan Zeitlin thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, then ended the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

2021 Meetings

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

- **August 19, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – WebEx Meeting**

Addendums

ADDENDUM I.



AGENDA

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS)
Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 15, 2021 | 8:30 am – 11:00 am | WebEx

Agenda Items

TIME	TOPIC
8:30 am	Welcome– Dan Zeitlin, Director, ESD, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Review
8:40 am	Approval of Meeting Minutes – Dan Zeitlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 17, 2021
8:45 am	ASWS Compliance Update – Oscar Cerda
8:50 am	FLC Applications Update – Norma Chavez & Cara Mia Stearns-Vance
9:00 am	WorkSource Offices Reopening – Alberto Isiordia
9:10 am	Worker Referral System – Juan Martinez & Ana Alcala-Rodriguez
9:20 am	L&I Update– Uriel Iniguez
9:30 am	Break
9:40 am	DOH Update – Todd Phillips, Darius Bazemore, Elizabeth Clark & Michelle Chung <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations • Outbreak Data
10:40 am	Closing Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next agenda items
10:50 am	Public Comments
11:00 am	Adjourn

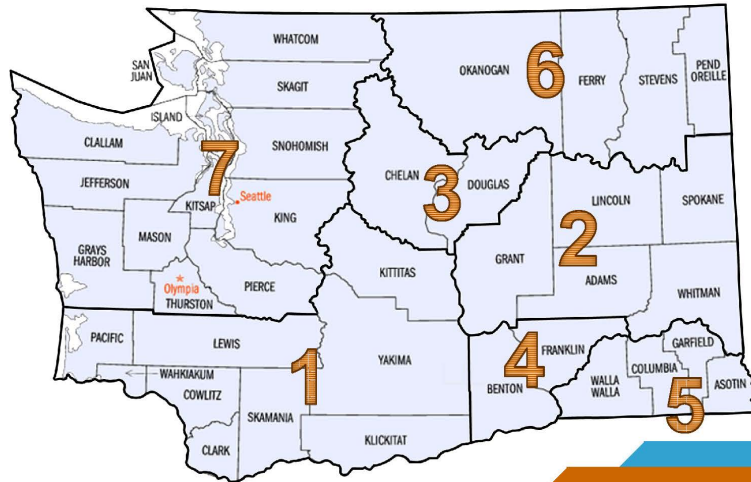
GROUND RULES

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

ADDENDUM II.

ASWS Compliance Team State Coverage Map

AREA	OFFICE STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION	COUNTIES SERVED
	Oscar Cerda Compliance Unit Supervisor (360) 791-9614 ocerda@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
1.	WorkSource Union Gap Lorena Lopez, Compliance Specialist (509) 502-8170 lolopez@esd.wa.gov	Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Pacific, Lewis
2.	WorkSource Columbia Basin (Moses Lake) Amador Madera, Compliance Specialist (509) 403-0424 amadera@esd.wa.gov	Grant, Lincoln, Adams, Spokane, Whitman
3.	WorkSource Wenatchee Alejandra Mendoza, Compliance Specialist (509) 423-0178 amendoza@esd.wa.gov	Chelan, Douglas
4.	WorkSource Columbia Basin (Kennewick) Vacant TBD TBD	Benton, Franklin
5.	WorkSource Walla Walla Vacant TBD TBD	Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin
6.	WorkSource Okanogan (Omak) Vacant TBD TBD	Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille
7.	WorkSource Auburn Vacant TBD TBD	Pierce, King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Clallam, San Juan, Islands



ADDENDUM III.

H-2A Progress & Performance

Juan Martinez – Wagner Peyser Program Operator

Ana Alcala-Rodriguez – Wagner Peyser Program Support Specialist

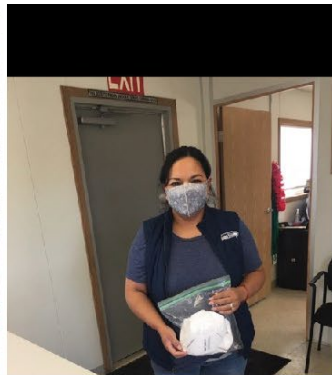
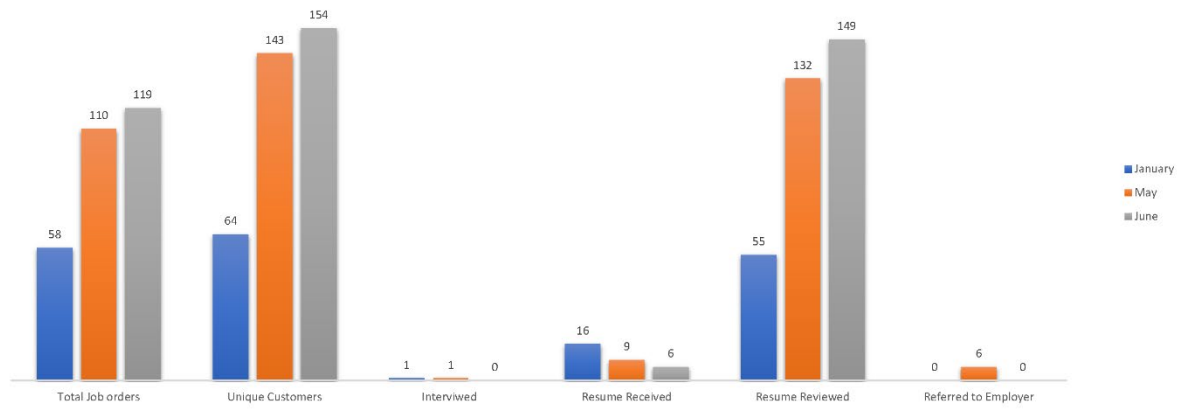
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H-2A Job Order & Tracking

If a placement is verified, the Wagner Peyser Program Team will share information with the ASWS Team so that they can conduct a field check with the H-2A Employer.

Wagner Peyser Program Team is following up weekly with WorkSource Staff to ensure applicants are reviewed weekly and outcomes are tracked.

H-2A Improvements



Faster connection of Workers and Employers

1.4 Additional outreach from ESD should include posters, booths, social media and text notifications

Addendum IV.



TESTING VACCINATION UPDATE - AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

July 15, 2021

Agricultural Worker Testing Support

- Objective: testing opportunities for agricultural workers preparing to return to farms in Washington State
- Working with Medical Teams International to provide testing and agricultural worker outreach
- Entering farmworkers will be tested twice, one week apart
 - Testing should begin as close to arrival as possible
- Testing is being completed with Abbott BinaxNOW antigen test (results in 15 minutes)
- PCR tests are available for those who are symptomatic, and the antigen test comes back negative

Main Branches of Testing

1. MTI will provide on-site testing at farms or temporary worker housing for incoming seasonal migrant agricultural workers
2. MTI will work in partnership with local health jurisdictions to coordinate additional testing efforts
3. Local health jurisdictions and community health centers are already providing additional testing supports
4. Expanding testing efforts to provide outbreak support
5. Explore interest in departure testing for migrant and H2A workers
6. Investigate use of OTC testing technology in Ag settings to expand access


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H-2A Entrance Testing Summary

January Totals					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
675	7	1.04%	496	0	0.00%
February Totals					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
2202	7	0.32%	1255	2	0.16%
March Totals					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
2010	0	0.00%	529	0	0.00%
April Totals					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
486	3	0.62%	85	3	3.53%
May Totals					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
3290	30	0.09%	262	43	16.41%
June Totals					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
1175	6	0.51%	61	0	0.00%
Totals to Date					
Entrance			Retest		
Taken	Positive	Percent	Taken	Positive	Percent
9838	26	0.26%	2688	48	1.79%

County	Samples		Percent
	Taken	Positive	
Benton	692	5	0.72%
Franklin	372	1	0.27%
Chelan	628	1	0.16%
Douglas	889	2	0.22%
Grant	3891	7	0.18%
Yakima	2910	54	1.86%
Adams	14	0	0.00%
Klickitat	138	0	0.00%
Okanogan	3027	5	0.17%
Walla Walla	126	1	0.79%
Skagit	339	2	0.59%
King	34	0	0.00%
Pacific	4	0	0.00%
Snohomish	29	2	6.90%

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Agricultural Worker Testing Initiative 2021 Growing Season: Entrance

General Information

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in temporary worker housing units, the Washington State Department of Health is offering agricultural employers, growers, and housing operators an opportunity to have workers tested when they arrive in Washington. Recognizing that workers will be travelling from a number of communities in their home countries or from other states to live in congregate housing, DOH urges participation in this program. Together, we can promote a healthy start to the 2021 growing season.

Interested employers, growers, and housing operators are able to arrange on-site testing of workers within the first week after arrival and a follow-up test about seven days later. The department has contracted with Medical Teams International (MTI) to meet the anticipated need. MTI has testing teams ready and available to rapidly deploy mobile testing sites throughout the state.

Due to factors including irregular arrival patterns, delayed arrivals, and unforeseen circumstances, neither DOH nor MTI make any guarantee that testing will be available at a specific time or place. The department will attempt to coordinate with local health jurisdictions to fill in as many gaps possible.

Cost

At present, there is no cost for participating in this initiative. DOH reserves the right to implement a cost-sharing program for future testing efforts, and the department will provide advanced notice of the details of any such changes.

Arranging a Mobile Testing Event

Employers, growers, and housing operators seeking to participate should contact Leslie Aaron, COVID-19 Clinic Manager, at laaron@medicalteams.org

Additional Information

MTI has Spanish-speaking testing staff. Because staffing patterns vary, neither DOH nor MTI guarantee that bilingual staff will be available at every event.

Participation in this program is not required under the agricultural rules issued by the Governor's Office, the Department of Health, or the Department of Labor & Industries. Positive cases from this testing effort will not automatically trigger the workforce testing requirement for outbreaks in agricultural settings. See section (g) [here](#).

This initiative is not associated with vaccine planning or distribution. Questions about vaccines can be directed to covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov.

MARCH 2021

Colin Maloney
Testing Strategy Lead
Disease Control and Health Statistics
Washington State Department of Health
Colin.maloney@doh.wa.gov | 360-236-4076

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LHJ and DOH Collaboration

- Bi-Weekly Meetings and Surveys
- To share:
 - Engagement efforts,
 - Concerns / challenges / successes
 - Recommendations
 - Foster collaboration
 - Identify DOH support needed



col·lab·o·ra·tion
kəˌlʌbəˈrɑːʃ(ə)n/
noun: collaboration; plural noun: collaborations
the action of working with someone to produce or create something.

team (together, everyone, achieves, more)

Successes and Challenges

- Successes:
 - MTI: Conducted over 100 vaccine clinics with 3,668 total vaccinations
 - Some LHJs have reported that they have reached saturation of population interested in receiving vaccination
 - A lot of community outreach and educational efforts underway in collaboration with Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
 - Community based pop-up clinics

- Challenges:
 - Vaccine hesitancy for the remaining unvaccinated population is our biggest challenge

New Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Effort



Care @ Van
Caravana de Salud

HEALTH IN MOTION →



800-525-0127 • WWW.DOH.WA.GOV

We are working closely with community partners and local health jurisdictions to increase access to vaccine for priority communities

Request can be made here:
[Care-a-Van :: Washington State Department of Health](#)

Washington State Department of Health

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Care-A-Van

Site Prioritization

- The Care-A-Van serves communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Requests that cover multiple priority areas below will be given higher priority:
- Counties with higher **vaccine gaps by race/ethnicity**.
- Communities with a high rank on the **Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for COVID-19**.
- Sectors with recent outbreaks.
- Communities overrepresented in **COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths**.
- Demographic groups with **lower vaccination rates** compared to other groups.
- Groups not represented or underrepresented in current DOH data systems that have likely experienced COVID-19 health disparities and vaccine inequities.
- Geographic locations that have not had a visit from the DOH Care-A-Van.

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Regional
Map of
Washington
– Regional
Meetings

The regions used in this report are largely based on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) regions used for evaluating available healthcare services given the concern for COVID-19’s potential impact on the healthcare system. Regions are defined as illustrated in the map below.





Access and Education



Community Health Workers and CBO partnerships

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Contact information

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