



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

Meeting details

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Skype meeting due to COVID-19

Committee members present

- Michele Besso
- Jonathan DeVaney
- Michael Gempler
- Rosalinda Guillen
- Rosella Mosby
- Delia Peña
- Erik Nicholson
- Ramon Torres

ESD staff

- Dan Zeitlin
- Alberto Isiordia
- Norma Chavez
- Tamara Johnson
- Rene Maldonado
- Craig Carroll
- Sara Crosby
- CaraMia Stearns-Vance

Non-voting agency representatives

- Uriel Iniguez
- Ignacio Marquez
- Dave Gifford

Guests

- Mike Schulte
- Margarito Cabrera
- Juan Martinez

Committee members absent

- Todd Phillips

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 of participants. All committee members were present. Ramon Torres stated he would be unable to stay for meeting.

Agenda

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

Meeting Minutes

Dan Zeitlin requested that everyone review the April 23, 2020 meeting minutes and provide their feedback. Tamara Johnson stated the meeting minutes were not sent out to the advisory committee and apologized for her oversight. Dan requested the meeting minutes be emailed immediately and Tamara did so. Dan suggested the meeting minutes approval be moved to the next meeting in order to give everyone time to review.

H-2A Application Data Report

Norma Chavez reported on H-2A application data.

Applications	# Applications	# Workers
Received/Processed	251	21,619
Commenced	158	15,086
Withdrawn	15	1,749
Cancelled	2	111
Delayed	1	208

Wagner-Peyser Presentation

Alberto Isiordia and Mike Schulte presented information on Wagner-Peyser grant. (See Addendum II.)

2020 ASWS Report to the Legislature

Sara Crosby reviewed the budget requirements needed to be included in the report to legislature due in October. (See Addendum III.)

Action Items

- Follow up on request of total number of H-2A workers in Washington State.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Domestic Worker Recruitment and Referral
- Budget analysis

Public Comments

Ryan Ogburn WAFLA

Adjourned

Dan Zeitlin thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, then ended the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

2020 Meetings

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

- **June 4th, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**
Skype Meeting

Addendums

ADDENDUM I



Agenda

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS)
Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 21st, 2020 | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | SKYPE

Agenda Items

TIME	TOPIC
8:30 am	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from Dan Zeitlin, Director, ESD Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity Division & Norma Chavez, Director – Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Agenda Review
8:35 am	Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 23 rd , 2020
8:40 am	Update on FLC Applications
8:45 am	Wagner-Peyser Presentation – Alberto Isiordia & Mike Schulte
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	H-2A Verification & Referral Process – Sara Crosby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and discussion
11:15 am	Closing Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss next agenda
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

ADDENDUM II

Wagner-Peyser
Summary

Key Presentation Points

- Wagner-Peyser helps ESD and WorkSource partners connect all customers to employment resources
- ESD has adjusted it’s service model from a labor exchange to job preparation focus
- Wagner-Peyser 10% funds are set aside to provide support to the Agricultural sector, with funds mainly leveraged to meet minimum MSFW outreach staffing requirements
- Over the last 10 years, Wagner-Peyser funding has remained flat while ESD operating costs have increased
- ESD has relied on state funding to supplement Wagner-Peyser
- MSFW outreach staff may enhance ASWS team outreach efforts

A Local
Perspective

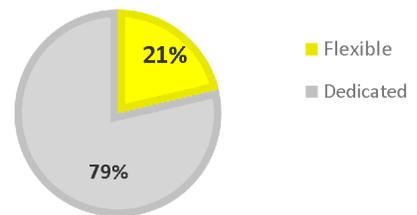
WorkSource
Okanogan

FY 2020 WS Okanogan FTE Snapshot

- ~\$2 million operating budget and ~17 FTEs
- Service Area: Okanogan County and North Chelan County

WS Okanogan County	FTEs
Wagner Peyser Federal 90%	1.56
Wagner Peyser Federal 10%	1.21
Trade Act Adjustment	1.30
WorkFirst	1.50
Strategies for Success	1.00
Basic Food Employment Training	1.80
Unemployment Insurance Admin	0.81
UI RESEA Grant	1.00
WIOA Title 1 Local Contracts	4.00
Claimant Placement Program	2.02
Reentry Statewide Initiative	0.60

Flexible Vs Dedicated Funding
WorkSource Okanogan



Customers Served: (July 18-June 19)

- 18,841 total customer visits
- 6,023 claimants visits
- 541 MSFW unique customers served

Wagner-Peyser Funding

Percentage of Budget and Flexibility to Serve Customers

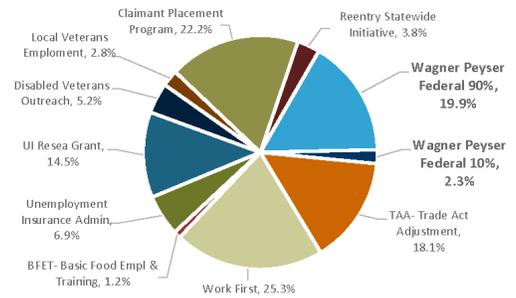
Wagner-Peyser Funding Breakdown

Wagner-Peyser 90% Funding

While primary target customer are UI Claimants and Veterans
Policy allows the Flexibility to serve All Job Seekers

EC Divisional Funding	Flex vs Dedicated Funding
Wagner Peyser Federal 90%	Flex
Wagner Peyser Federal 10%	Dedicated
Trade Act Adjustment	Dedicated
Work First	Dedicated
Basic Food Employment & Training	Dedicated
Unemployment Insurance Admin	Dedicated
UI RESEA Grant	Dedicated
Disabled Veterans Outreach	Dedicated
Local Veterans Employment	Dedicated
Claimant Placement Program	Flex
Reentry Statewide Initiative	Dedicated

ESD - Employment Connection Division Funding



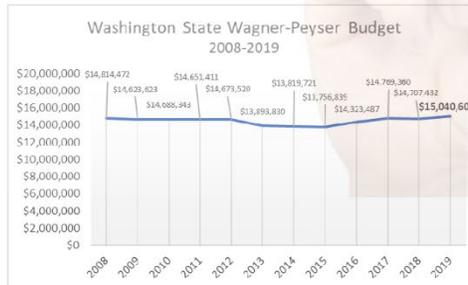
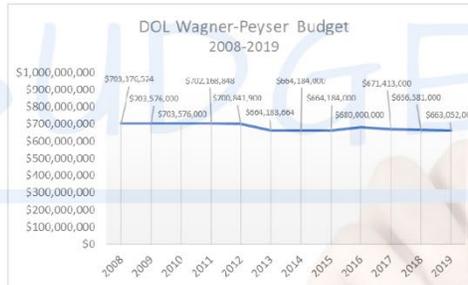
• PY 2019 budget (\$15,040,605) equates to:

- 117 FTEs (W/P 90%),
- 12 FTEs (W/P 10%),
- That is roughly 3 per office (38 offices statewide)

Wagner-Peyser

Funding Breakdown

- What is the budget and how has that change in recent years?



Wagner-Peyser

Funding Breakdown

- How DOL determines State's Wagner-Peyser allocations
 - Allocation based upon DOL regulations
 - 2/3rd based # in Workforce (compared to other states)
 - 1/3rd based #'s of unemployed (compared to other states)

Wagner-Peyser Allocation Formula

Compared to other States



What positions is Wagner-Peyser 10% funding in support of the Ag Sector?

Wagner Peyser 10% Snapshot

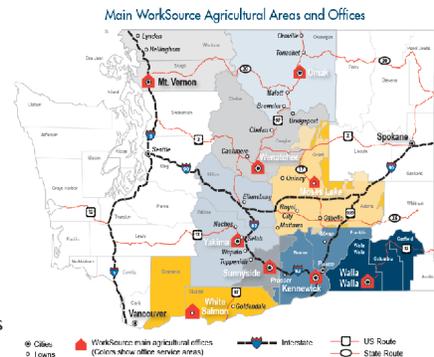
- PY 19 WP 10% = \$1.5 M
- MSFW Outreach = 1 Monitor Advocate, 8.5 MSFW Outreach FTEs
- ~2.5 additional FTE providing additional support to MSFWs and Ag employers (percentage of FTE spread across multiple staff)

Outreach Performance

	PY 2017	PY 2018
Contacts	19,921	14,288
Days	1,076	761

Major activities

- Resource awareness at community events/locations
- Partner meetings
- Media (TV/radio/online)
- Posting fliers and distributing brochures



What is Wagner-Peyser 10% and what is it reserved for?

Wagner Peyser 10%

Section 7 of the Wagner-Peyser Act allows 10 percent of the sum of Wagner-Peyser dollars allotted to each State to be reserved by the Governor for:

- Performance incentives for public employment service offices and programs;
- Services to groups with special needs; and
- Extra costs of exemplary models for delivering services and for enhancing professional development and career advancement of state staff.

In Washington State, 10% of Wagner-Peyser allocations are set aside to fund staff providing services to the Agricultural sector, with a focus on farm workers.

What is Wagner-Peyser required to provide?

Employers

Who is Wagner-Peyser intended to serve?

What does the data show?

Wagner-Peyser Menu of Services

Employer Services:

- Assistance in development of job listing requirements
- Assistance with hiring events and Job Fairs
- Assisting employers with special recruitment needs
- Matching job seeker experience with job requirements, skills and other attributes
- Assisting employers analyze hard-to-fill job orders
- Assisting with job restructuring
- Helping employers with layoffs
- Information about the Federal Bonding program and Work Opportunity Tax Credits



How has this changed over the years?

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers:

Total annual avg of covered agricultural employment = 97,810 (2017)

Total # of MSFW Workers served by WorkSource (PY 2018) **4,138**

Veterans:

Total # of Veterans in Workforce in WA State = 3,848,015

Total # of Veterans served by WorkSource (PY 2018) = **7,636**

Claimants:

905,872 Claimants (between Jan 19 – Dec 19)

of Initial UI Claims in March and April 2020 = **929,735**

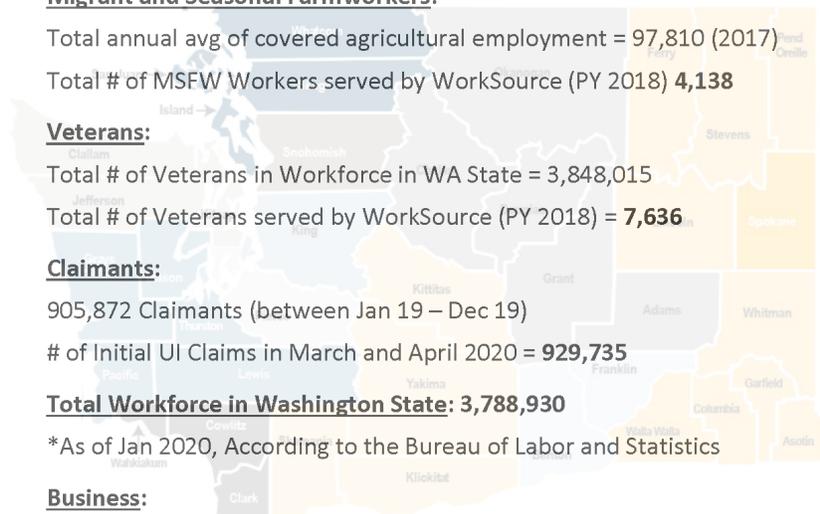
Total Workforce in Washington State: 3,788,930

*As of Jan 2020, According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics

Business:

Total # of Business using WorkSource (PY 2018) = **8,416**

Total # of Job orders posted = 220,939



Wagner-Peyser Act

Expanded and Amended

What is Wagner-Peyser?

- Expanded to serve Unemployment Claimants as a result of the Social Security Act in 1935
- 1971, 16 organizations and 398 individuals petitioned U.S. Secretary of Labor, Peter J. Brennan with accusations of exploitation of farmworkers by state employment offices across the United States.
- 1974, Judge Richey Order signed, requiring U.S. Department of Labor to ensure all workforce development services, benefits and protections for farmworkers are provided on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis.
- Later amended with Workforce Investment Act (WIA, '98) and later WorkSource Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA, '14)



Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 establishes first public labor exchange system

“To provide for the establishment of a national employment system for the cooperation with the State in the promotion of such system, for the purposes established a nationwide system of public employment offices.”

Goal to provide:

- (1) Federal matching funds for the operation of state employment offices,
- (1) Federal supervision of operations,
- (2) State administration of services, and
- (3) Employment services to veterans



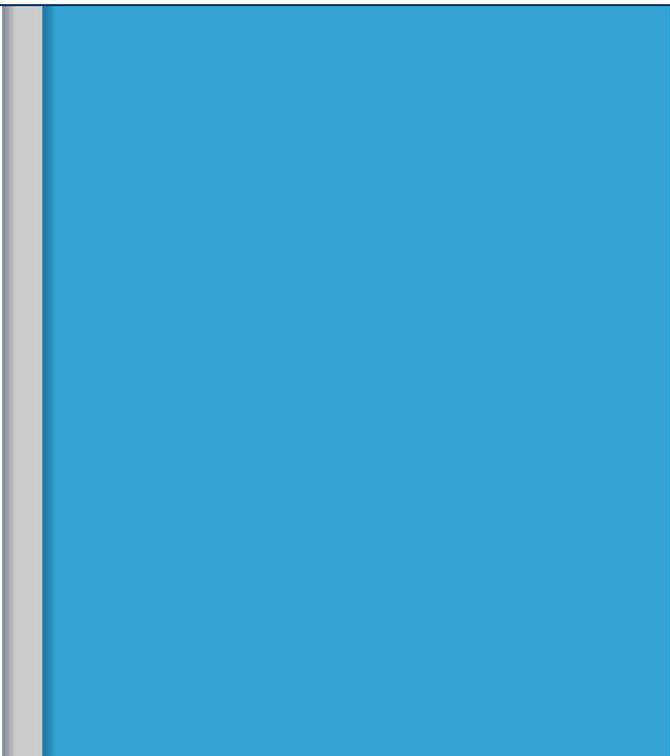


An Overview of Wagner-Peyser

Today's Presenters:

Alberto Isiordia, Central Regional Director

Michael Schulte, Program Integrity Manager



Any Questions



Alberto Isiordia, aisiordia@esd.wa.gov

Michael Schulte, mschulte@esd.wa.gov

ADDENDUM III

ASWS - MEETING NOTES - 5.21.2020

Analyzes the costs incurred by the office to administer the H-2A program, the funds to administer other department programs for farmworkers, and the amount of funds allocated by the federal government to administer the H-2A program and all other agricultural programs within the department.

- Understand the numbers for most recent fiscal year, what is variance?
- What is being spent? What activities are required vs recommended? So that we can evaluate best use of available resources
- Make sure money is spent efficiently and properly
- Look at where money is being spent and look at where domestic farmworkers are benefitting – support local families to access these jobs, keep payroll within the state
- How do we ensure, and what will it cost, to protect workers and keep them safe from pandemics, crisis, etc
- What are the results of the money being spent?
- Cost of ensuring compliance – doesn't show up in existing budget because we hadn't been doing it
- Review the grant agreement from DOL, which outlines what is ESD is allowed/required to do with the federal funds.
- Vision of what services need to be carried out to provide effective domestic/foreign recruitment, certification, processing, survey, enforcement → put a number on it
- Is there a way to look at enforcement budgets for other industries; what is being spent on enforcement for other industries

Contact information

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Employment Security Department • Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity
