



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE WORKFIRST POVERTY REDUCTION OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE**

Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2023 from 9:00 am – noon  
Virtual Meeting  
TVW [Recording](#)

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**Attendance**

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**Voting Members**

Quorum?  Yes  No

**Senators**

- Sen. Perry Dozier (R)
- Sen. Manka Dhingra (D)
- Sen. Chris Gildon (R)
- Sen. Joe Nguyen (D)

**Representatives**

- Rep. Mia Gregerson (D) (Legislative Co-Chair)
- Rep. Michelle Caldier (R)
- Rep. Carolyn Eslick (R)
- Rep. Strom Peterson (D)

**Agency Members**

- Jilma Meneses, Department of Social and Health Services (Executive Co-Chair)
- Travis Sugarman, proxy for Kelly Cooper, Department of Health
- Veronica Gallardo, Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction
- Cary Retlin, proxy for Diane Klontz, Department of Commerce (Co-Chair Advisory)
- Jennie Fitzpatrick, Department of Corrections
- Tim Probst, Employment Security Department (Co-Chair Advisory)
- Nicole Rose, Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Carli Schiffner, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

**Non-Voting Members**

- Terry Redmon, Economic Security Administration Secretary
- Mystique Hurtado, Governor's Office Indian Affairs
- Megan Matthews, Office of Equity
- Kate Sowers, on behalf of Grace Yoo, Washington State Women's Commission
- Anna Minor, Office of Financial Management
- Nam Nguyen, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- Ed Prince, Commission on African American Affairs
- Manny Santiago, Washington State LGBTQ Commission
- Maria Siguenza, Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Drayton Jackson, PRWG Steering Committee
- Juanita Maestas, PRWG Steering Committee

**Staff**

- Amber Leaders, Office of the Governor
- Livey Beha, Department of Social and Health Services
- Alex Panagotacos, Department of Social and Health Services
- Babs Roberts, Department of Social and Health Services

- Charice Pidcock, Neutral Facilitator, Department of Social and Health Services
- Lindsay Morgan Tracy, Department of Social and Health Services
- Lori Pfingst, PhD, Department of Social and Health Services
- Gwen Teok, PhD, Department of Social and Health Services
- Suzy Young, Department of Social and Health Services

### Presenters

- Donna Christensen, PRWG Member
- Faduma Fido, Lab Leader, People's Economy Lab
- Dr. Herbie Duber, Regional Medical Officer, Department of Health (DOH)
- Amy Roark, PRWG Steering Committee member
- Jonathan Mallahan, Chief Housing Officer, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW)
- Dan Wise, Agency Director, Coordinated Care Agency, Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington (CCS/CHS)
- Jessica Blose, Washington State Opioid Treatment Authority, Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA)
- Kris Shera, Washington State Opioid Administrator, HCA
- Travis Sugarman, J.D., Director of Behavioral Health, Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness, Office of Prevention, Safety, and Health, DOH
- Marirose Piciucco, Deputy Chief of Staff, DSHS

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### Opening

Meeting opened at 9:00 am.

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### Rules of Engagement

Meeting engagement for the virtual meeting were shared. Rules of engagement were reviewed as a reminder of acceptable behavior for the meeting.

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### Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs, Representative Mia Gregerson and Secretary Jilma Meneses, welcomed members, presenters, and guests.

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### Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was shared, consisting of the meeting agenda and the meeting minutes from May 2023. Quorum was not met; therefore, the consent agenda items were tabled to the next meeting.

The following consent agenda items were tabled:

- Meeting agenda
- August 2023 minutes
- Integrated Eligibility & Enrollment (IE&E) Project Update

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### Aligned Poverty Efforts

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Alex Panagotacos welcomed and introduced the Aligned Poverty Efforts panelists. Juanita Maestas shared an update from the recent Poverty Reduction Steering Committee meeting. Topics at that meeting included: rent control, holding landlords accountable, food insecurity and review of forms with time limits, and WIC and SNAP benefits are essential for people experiencing poverty. Juanita expressed the Steering Committee's continued dedication to advocating for these programs and the importance of including those with current lived experience, as things change.

Drayton Jackson explained the importance of reducing confusion by having two plans, the LEWPRO 5- and Poverty Reduction Work Group (PRWG) 10-year plans and how the 10-year plan was successfully implemented during the pandemic. Drayton affirmed the need to get feedback from the community, non-profit organizations, and the PRWG members, especially when developing legislation.

Donna Christensen shared her experience participating in the PRWG and how it has changed how she and colleagues approach their work.

Lori Pfingst presented an update on the Economic Justice Alliance and shared an update on recent local and federal poverty data.

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### Alliance Alignment

Lori Pfingst explained how the absence of lived experience in this work transformed poverty in Washington State during the pandemic by including the people with lived experience involved in conversations, is central to understanding how poverty plays out, and what it means to experience economic justice.

Lori shared examples of how the 10-year plan is being used by agencies' and advocates, as well as involving people with lived experience, and the positive impact made to their budget and policy requests.

Lori announced the new name, "Economic Justice Alliance", and future plans to define economic justice and partnership with communities across the state.

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### Public Comment

Public comment period was offered. There were no comments made.

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### Just Futures Presentation

Lori Pfingst and Faduma Fido shared the successes of the partnership of 15 organizations involved with Just Futures and the People's Economy Lab over the past two years. The Just Futures Project focused on creating an equitable, generative, and transformative change and the two objectives are to:

- 1) Elevate leadership and participation of communities most impacted and historically excluded in setting the vision, measures, assessing progress, and holding the state accountable; and
- 2) Create opportunities for government agencies to collaborate with community-owned enterprises to direct targeted investments, where people most impacted are central to decision making.

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### Break

The group took a 13-minute break, reconvening at 10:10 am.

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### Opioid Epidemic in Washington State and How It Impacts Poverty

A nine-person panel with representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Foundation for Homelessness and Poverty Management, PRWG Steering Committee, Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington, Health Care Authority (HCA), and the Department of Social and Health Services shared information on how the Washington State Opioid Epidemic is impacting poverty.

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### Public Comment

Public comment period was offered. There were no comments made.

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### Planning for 2024

Babs Roberts presented an update on the plan to prepare for the 2024 report out and recommendations to DSHS.

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### Good of the Order

The next LEWPRO meeting will be held on February 15, 2023, from 9:00 am to noon. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 am.