Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight (LEWPRO) Task Force

August 26, 2021
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
Public Comment (10 minutes)
Task Force Business (10 minutes)
Enhancing and Modernizing LEWPRO Work (50 minutes)
Compensation for Community Experience (30 minutes)
BREAK (10 minutes)
TANF WorkFirst Updates (25 minutes)
Poverty Reduction Workgroup (PRWG) Updates (25 minutes)
Public Comment (10 minutes)
Good of the Order (5 minutes)
Public Comment
Task Force Business
Strengthening LEWPRO Membership

• Adds the LGBTQ Commission and Office of Equity as nonvoting members to better guide and inform LEWPRO’s work.

• Promotes Washington’s and DSHS’s principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.
Enhancing and Modernizing LEWPRO Work

Decision Making

Meeting Facilitation

Meeting Structure and Staffing
History of the Task Force

• Leg Exec WorkFirst Oversight Task Force established in 2011 through ESSB 5921
  • Membership consisted of former WorkFirst sub-cabinet agencies and legislators from both chambers and caucuses
  • Much of the TANF/WorkFirst oversight in E3SHB 1482 is from that legislation

• E3SHB 1482 expanded the Task Force to include a focus on intergenerational poverty, adding requirements to:
  • Develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty
  • Recommend policy actions to the Governor and the legislature

• Original meetings mirrored formal legislative hearing structure and included legislative staff. That structure/format was not re-evaluated after E3SHB 1482
E3SHB 1482 – Requirements

- Oversee operation of the WorkFirst and TANF program
- Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program
- Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and state agencies
- Develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty
- Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction
- Analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational poverty
- Recommend policy actions to the Governor and the legislature to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency
# Comparison to Similar Task Forces

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<td>Meeting structure</td>
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<td>• Structured agenda with goals</td>
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<td>• Co-chairs facilitate the meeting</td>
<td>• Small group discussion/table talk</td>
<td>• Contracted facilitator works with agency leads to develop agenda to meet goals</td>
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<td>• Agency staffs agenda and work products</td>
<td>• Contracted facilitator for meeting</td>
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Equitable Compensation for Community Experience
Break time!

😊 We will reconvene in 10 minutes 😊
WorkFirst Spending Plan
Statewide TANF/SFA Caseload

Source: DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment M5010 Request using ACES Data Warehouse as of the August 2021 load and EMAPS DataWeb website as of August 16, 2021
WorkFirst Reengagement Plan
Overview

• 18,000 participants

• Many with no participation experience

• Most with likely changes in circumstances

• Scheduled appointments for all by end of November
Reengagement begins in September

- Each adult will receive a phone appointment letter.
- WFPS- will begin with families with the fewest number of TANF months.
- WFSSS- will begin with families with the highest number of TANF months.
Communications Plan

**WorkFirst Participant Communications:**
- Heads up mailer
- Automated phone message
- Hold message recording
- Automated appointment reminders

**Stakeholder and Partner Communications:**
- Letter to partners/stakeholders
- Update to COVID changes site, social media
CSD’s Future Service Delivery –
Utilizing lessons learned during COVID-19 to build CSD’s future service delivery model in support of Washington’s Roadmap to Recovery

2020 Background:

- CSD experienced over 44% increase in Basic Food applications from 2019
- Shift in service delivery primarily to phones
- Majority of staff became teleworkers
- Majority of clients shifted successfully to virtual services
Future Framework –
Offers flexibility for maintaining service delivery efficiency, supports staff telework, mitigates infection risk, increases creative local partnerships and accommodates customers who have significant barriers

• Framework

• Key features

• Planning process
Poverty Reduction Workgroup (PRWG) Updates
These strategies and recommendations aim to accomplish two goals:

- Effectively mitigate the effects of poverty on children, adults, and families
- Prevent the incidence of poverty from occurring by investing in opportunities all Washingtonians need to achieve social and economic mobility.

1. UNDO STRUCTURAL RACISM
   Understand structural racism and historical trauma and take action to undo how they manifest in state policy, program, and practice.

2. BALANCE POWER
   Make equal space in decision-making for people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality.

3. INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
   Target equitable income growth and wealth-building among people with low incomes.

4. ENSURE FOUNDATIONAL WELL-BEING
   Strengthen health supports across the life span to promote the intergenerational well-being of families.

5. PRIORITIZE URGENT NEEDS
   Prioritize the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or addiction.

6. BUILD A HOLISTIC CONTINUUM OF CARE
   Build an integrated human service continuum of care that addresses the holistic needs of children, adults, and families.

7. DECRIMINALIZE POVERTY
   Decriminalize poverty and reduce reliance on the child welfare, juvenile justice, and criminal justice systems.

8. PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK
   Ensure a just transition to the future of work.
Adopt a definition and measure of recovery that guides the state toward long-term, equitable and inclusive economic growth

Establish a new economic floor that guarantees foundational needs

Prototype a new state program that leverages the combination of wages, employer benefits, public programs and tax credits to ensure an economic floor

Ensure people most affected by poverty, inequality, and the current downturn are informing decision making

Immediate Actions for a Just & Equitable Future

Continuing investment in COVID-19 related changes to health, economic, education, and employment and training supports, centered on people disproportionately affected historically and currently

Maximizing existing programs to provide cash, food, housing and medical assistance to keep Washingtonians food secure, safe and stably housed, and able to obtain medical care

Adopt the 10-Year Plan to guide long-term inclusive recovery and growth
Systemic change becomes possible when we recognize the “system” is us – people working in state, tribal, and local government, non-profits, businesses, and philanthropic entities across the state working toward a shared vision.

**POVERTY REDUCTION**
Immediate and long-term systemic actions to create a foundation of well-being and a stronger economy

- **POLICY**
- **PROGRAMS**
- **PEOPLE**
- **PARTNERSHIPS**
INTENTION, ACCOUNTABILITY & ACTION TO DISMANTLE POVERTY IN WASHINGTON.

• Commit to action within and between agencies to dismantle poverty in Washington state.

• Prioritize implementation of 10-Year Plan recommendations in coordination with tribal nations, state partners, and NGOs.

• Build toward a just and equitable future by ensuring people and communities historically excluded from social and economic well-being are represented in data, stories, and decision-making.

• Hold the state accountable to a just and equitable future by measuring progress based on achieving racial, social, and geographic equity.
RESULTS WA GOAL 2.1 PROJECT
Toward a Just & Equitable Recovery

- Traditional definitions and measures of recovery from economic downturns are not equitable or inclusive.

- COVID-19 and its economic consequences are exacerbating existing inequality.

- Without a shared vision and accountability toward a just and equitable future we risk maintaining the status quo and limiting progress.

- People and communities historically excluded from economic well-being are vital to our success.
What’s in the Soil Bears the Fruit

**OPPORTUNITY**
Educational and vocational attainment rise; a vibrant, entrepreneurial, and sustainable business community thrives.

**FOUNDATIONAL NEEDS**
All children, adults, and families have abundant and nutritious food, are safe and stably housed, digitally connected, with mobility/accessibility.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
High quality P-20 education is provided; apprenticeship and training are abundant; financial tools increase access.

**BUSINESS + LABOR**
Child care is affordable and abundant; workers have protections and earn living wages; biz conditions support manufacturing, small business, STEM, and fair trade.

**GOVERNANCE & RESOURCES**
Power and revenue are equitably wielded and distributed; decision-making is inclusive.

**EQUITABLE & JUST ECONOMY**
Prosperity is widely shared in an expanding middle class and sustainable economy.

**ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**
Full employment is achieved; wages and income rise to support wealth-building.

**HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING**
Health outcomes, hope and happiness increase; air, water, and land quality improve.

**SOCIAL WELL-BEING**
Truth and reconciliation is underway; housing is affordable; involvement with the child welfare and justice systems is low.

**HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**
Health care and insurance is affordable and abundant; public health is protected; carbon emissions decline; air, land, water, and built environment are healthy and accessible.

*Elna, W., Dietz, W. [2017]. A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience Model*
A Community Caucus Model

A process that elevates community-led expertise and partnership to meaningfully inform policy, program, and funding decisions that result in a just and equitable future.
An Accountability Process to Achieve Equity

1. Vision developed in collaboration with stakeholders

2. Custom community data reports track progress toward vision

3. Caucuses interpret and bring meaning to data, discuss priorities and identify solutions

4. Caucuses’ priorities and solutions shared via existing or new formal channels

5. Policy, program, and funding decisions accountable to data and caucuses to guide state toward vision

Timely review to inform accountable decision-making

Annual review of vision to track progress
## Project Specifics

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### IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

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### PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

- Poverty Reduction Work Group
- Community Partners
  - Statewide Poverty Action | Front & Centered
- Tribal Nations
- State Agencies
- Office of Equity, WA Recovery Group

### PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

- Kresge Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Support for communities to participate
BASIC INCOME FEASIBILITY STUDY
Alignment with 10-Year Plan

Recommendation 6d. Increase cash assistance and make it unconditional upon work.

Recommendation 8d. Develop and pilot a portable benefits model and a guaranteed basic income program.
2021-23 Budget Proviso: Basic Income Feasibility Study

“$77,000 of the general fund”—state appropriation is provided solely for the department to conduct a study, jointly with the poverty reduction work group, on the feasibility of implementing a universal basic income pilot program. The study must include research of other universal basic income programs, recommendations for a pilot in Washington, a cost-benefit analysis, operational costs, and an implementation plan that includes a strategy to ensure pilot participants who voluntarily quit a public assistance program to enroll in the universal basic income pilot will not experience gaps in service upon completion of the pilot. The department shall submit recommendations required by this section to the governor and appropriate legislative committees no later than June 1, 2022.”
Basic Income Feasibility Study

- **Strategic Team** of public-private partners plan project and form Steering Committee

- **Community Engagement & Input**

- **Agency Working Group** develops goals, prototypes, cost-benefit, benefits analysis

- **Draft Literature Review**

- **Steering Committee** of people and communities historically excluded from social and economic well-being oversee study development

- Study recommendations drafted and refined for inclusion in final study with Steering Committee & Strategic Team

Study Due June 1, 2022
Public Comment
Good of the Order

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021