



# Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

## Meeting details

**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

### Committee members present

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

### Non-voting agency representatives

- Uriel Iniguez
- Ignacio Marquez
- Todd Phillips

### Committee members absent

- None

### ESD staff

- Dan Zeitlin
- Alberto Isiordia
- Norma Chavez
- Rene Maldonado
- Tamara Johnson
- Gustavo Aviles
- Sara Crosby
- Craig Carroll
- Carole Holland

## 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.

### Agenda

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

### Discussion with Suzi LeVine, Commissioner

Recording timestamp **00:06:26**

Suzi LeVine thanked everyone for all of the hard work done this year. She expressed appreciation for coming together to find common ground and recommend ways to improve the system and she acknowledged the challenges identified in the report that were made exponentially more difficult for the agricultural community by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suzi then asked the committee members to share their perspective of their experience, “what worked well, what could be done differently, and if we had a magic wand what would you adapt, adopt or do”. Voting members, Mike Gempler, Jon DeVaney, Erik Nicholson, Rosalinda Guillen, Delia Pena, Michelle Besso,

and Rosella Mosby all shared their perspectives. Non-voting members, Ignacio Marquez, Uriel Inguez, and Todd Phillips also shared their experience and appreciation.

## Meeting Minutes

Recording timestamp 00:46:41

Dan Zeitlin requested that everyone review the meeting minutes for November 19, 2020 and provide their feedback. Mike Gempler made a motion to approve the minutes for November 19, 2020. Erik Nicholson seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

## ASWS Report

Recording timestamp 00:49:32

Sara Crosby facilitated a final review of report for the Committee allowing for final discussions and edits. Dan Zeitlin then facilitated the vote to approve the executive summary (timestamp 1:05:30) and the final report (timestamp 1:06:09). (See Addendum II.) The final report was unanimously approved.

## Resignations

Recording timestamp 1:09:00

Erik Nicholson has resigned his position on the committee. The commissioner solicited a recommendation from the Washington State Labor Council to fill the position. The commissioner will be accepting their recommendation and appointing United Farm Workers, Pacific Northwest Regional Director, Victoria Ruddy to the committee.

Rosella Mosby has resigned her position on the committee. The commissioner will reach out to the Washington Growers League for their recommendation to fill Rosella's position on the committee.

## Committee Terms

Recording timestamp 1:16:18

Terms of service 2y/4yr

## Meeting schedule

Recording timestamp 1:21:40

The meeting will continue to meet the third Thursday of each month. The Committee will also continue to meet virtually until June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and then reassess if we can meet again in person.

## Platform

Recording timestamp 1:24:02

Webex has been chosen for use as our virtual meeting platform starting with the January 21, 2021 meeting. Please look for new invites with WebEx logon information. This information will also be provided on our webpage.

## Minutes summary

Recording timestamp 1:28:14

Timestamps to be included in meeting minutes going forward to allow easier access when viewing the recording of the meetings. Minutes will also include high level reference to items not on the agenda.

## Future Meeting agendas

Recording timestamp 1:35:28

- Monthly tracking on each of the recommendations in the report
- Discuss how we will operationalize the data
- Layout a timeline for some of the expected results/goals for the committee for the year
- Questions around when agricultural workers will be given to access to vaccine for COVID-19
- Update from DOH and L&I would be very helpful for the members of the committee
- Temporary Worker Housing emergency rules which are expiring soon

## Public Comments

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 10:06 a.m.

**2020 Meetings**

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

- **January 21, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
Skype meeting

ADDENDUM I



AGENDA

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS)  
Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 17, 2020 | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | SKYPE

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>November 19, 2020</li> </ul>
8:45 am	ASWS Report – Dan Zeitlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final review of report</li> <li>Executive summary discussion/approval</li> <li>Final report discussion/approval</li> </ul>
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Discussion-Dan Zeitlin & Norma Chavez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee term of service (2yr/4yr)</li> <li>2021 meeting schedule</li> <li>2021 meeting platform</li> <li>2021 minutes summary</li> <li>2021 meeting agendas</li> </ul>
10:50 am	Closing Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suzi LeVine, Commissioner, ESD</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

ADDENDUM II

REPORT VOTING TALLY		Motion	2nd	Approved?	VOTING MEMBERS								
					MICHELE BESSO (NWJP)	JON DEVANEY (WSTFA)	MIKE GEMPLER (WGL)	ROSALINDA GUILLEN (CTC)	ROSELLA MOSBY (MF)	ERIK NICHOLSON (UFW)	DELIA PENA (ZFC)	RAMON TORRES (FUJ)	
1. We will consider for factual accuracy and vote to approve the following sections:													
	Introduction	Erik Nicholson (UFW)	Michele Besso (NWJP)	YES									
	ASWS Advisory Committee Meetings												
	Agricultural & Seasonal Workforce Service Office												
2. We will consider for factual accuracy and vote to approve the following sections:													
	Domestic Recruitment Process Overview	Michele Besso (NWJP)	Erik Nicholson (UFW)	YES									
	Field Checks												
	Field Visits												
	Recruitment & Referral Verification												
3. We will consider and vote on each of the 6 recommendations by the Committee to improve the ESD Recruitment Processes and Systems.													
A	Faster connection of workers and employers in ESD recruitment process	Michele Besso (NWJP)	Rosella Mosby (MF)	YES									
B	Faster connection of workers and employers in ESD recruitment through disclosure of referrals to employers	Jon DeVaney (WSTFA)	Rosalinda Guillen (CTC)	YES									
C	Referral Tracking and Follow-up	Erik Nicholson (UFW)	Michele Besso (NWJP)	YES									
D	Customer Experience Study	Mike Gempler (WGL)	Rosella Mosby (MF)	YES									
E	Employer Resources	Jon DeVaney (WSTFA)	Delia Pena (ZFC)	YES									
F	Employer Training	Erik Nicholson (UFW)	Jon DeVaney (WSTFA)	YES									
4. We will consider for factual accuracy and vote to approve the following sections:													
	Budget	Michele Besso (NWJP)	Rosalinda Guillen (CTC)	YES									
5. We will consider and vote on each worker perspective.													
A	Requirement for Employers to Report on Referrals	All worker representatives worked together to submit their agreed upon perspectives.											
B	Access to WorkSourceWA												
C	Barriers to customer experience study												
D	Prevailing Wage Survey												
E	Lack of Data												
6. We will consider and vote on each employer perspective.													
A	Prevailing Wage Survey	All employer representatives worked together to submit their agreed upon perspectives.											
B	Foreign and Domestic workers												
C	Referrals												
D	Source of Funds												
E	Claimant Placement Program Funding												
7. We will consider and vote on each shared perspective.													
A	Coordination among State agencies	Michele Besso (NWJP)	Mike Gempler (WGL)	YES									
8. We will consider and vote on the executive summary.													
		Jon DeVaney (WSTFA):	Mike Gempler (WGL):	YES									
9. We will consider and vote on approval of the report pending identified edits and formatting (Committee members will have the opportunity to review the final report before it is submitted.)													
		Roll Call Vote - Unanimous YES			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. We will want to make sure we capture the right documents in Appendix B.													
		Appendix B has been removed.											

Contact information

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Employment Security Department • Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity