EASTERN OREGON WORKFORCE BOARD

Serving Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow,
Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties

EOWB Board of Directors
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 30, 2026, 10:00 AM (PT)

x	Quinn Anderson, Umpqua Bank		Jeff Gritz, Vice Chair Oregon & Southern Idaho.
x	Maisie Taylor, Blue Mountain Hospital		Brian Lemke, NW Carpenters Union
	Bill Wyllie, Chester's Thriftway		Mike Aldritt, AFL-CIO
	Martha Corrigan, Symmetry Care		VACANT, CBO
x	Riley Hill, Greystone Builders LLC		Dana Young, TVCC
	Vacant Business	x	Mark Browning, BMCC
x	Kelly Morgan, Lamb Weston		Tory Stinnett, GEOEDC
x	Joanna Larson, Northwest Beef Express	x	Matt Wilson, OED (Ex-Officio)
x	Susie Cederholm, Chair CHD Inc.		Kathy Cook, ODHS-VR
	Kit Evans, Wallowa County Grain Growers		

***>9=quorum (51%), >4= (B)(25%)**

Guests Present: Union County Commissioner Jake Sievert, Vice Chair, Eastern Oregon Jobs Council

EOWB Staff: Erin Carpenter, Farideh Alvijeh

<u>10:00 a.m. — Call to Order</u>
<u>The meeting was called to order and the agenda was reviewed.</u>
By Susie Cederholm

<u>Approve Draft Agenda</u>
Motion to Approve:
Second to Motion by:
Motion Carries with Voice Vote, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

10:05 a.m. — Introduction and Ice Breaker

Board members, staff, and partners introduced themselves and shared workforce wins or frictions from their communities, businesses, or sectors. Retention challengers were a theme here.

10:15 a.m. — 2025/26 Program Year in Review

EOWB staff provided updates on outreach, internships, sector partnerships, employer engagement, WorkSource activity, ARPA, Pathway Home, Rapid Response/layoff support, Waitwhile data, Oregon CIS referrals, and virtual service pathways.

11:00 a.m. — Break

The Board paused briefly before continuing the program year review and Executive Director comments.

11:15 a.m. — Resigning Executive Director Comments

Erin Carpenter shared closing comments, highlighted EOWB's accomplishments and strong performance statewide, and was recognized for her service.

11:30 a.m. — Lunch

The Board recessed for lunch.

12:15 p.m. — Board of Directors Workflow

Leif Ryman reviewed proposed board communication improvements, including a monthly pulse email, quarterly scorecard, board packet structure, meeting format, RFP workflow options, and board/Jobs Council engagement priorities.

Efficacies, RFPs, and Other Work Groups

The Board discussed streamlining RFP review by using staff and an evaluation committee with board representation, while retaining final board approval authority.

Communications and Scorecard

A proposed board scorecard and communication rhythm were reviewed, including metrics for customer access, outcomes, employer engagement, finances, provider performance, and board decisions.

Kitt Resignation and Vice Chair

The Board discussed Kitt's planned resignation and the need to identify a future Vice Chair.

Board Changes and Open Seats

Open board seats were discussed, including small business representation and a youth/community-based organization seat.

Budget Planning and Recommendations

Farideh Alvijeh reviewed current-year spending, performance reporting, budget modification needs, and audit procurement considerations.

Review 2025–2026 Spending

Staff reported that spending was generally on track, with ARPA previously identified as a concern but now being actively spent down.

Performance Report

The Board reviewed performance data and discussed the need for clearer contract targets and stronger provider accountability.

Budget MOD Plans and Budget Approval Meeting

Staff noted that a budget modification and upcoming budget approval meeting would be needed before the new fiscal year

Auditor RFP

The Board discussed extending the current auditor for one additional year under existing policy due to timing, continuity, and capacity concerns, with additional vote follow-up needed due to lack of quorum.

Vote on extending contract with auditor
Motion to Approve: Kelly Morgan
Second to Motion by: Quinn Anderson
Motion Carries(conditional to email voting for missing quorum) with Voice Vote, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

Email voting Record

Completion time	Email	Name	Please reply with your vote:
5/8/26 15:25:41	jgritz@osidcl.org	Jeff Gritz	Approve- Extend the current audit firm for one additional year
5/11/26 15:03:06	KEvans@graingrowers.com	Kit Evans	Approve- Extend the current audit firm for one additional year
5/12/26 23:22:41		dyoung@tvcc.cc	Approve- Extend the current audit firm for one additional year

2026–2027 Initiatives

Leif Ryman reviewed upcoming system changes, including the shift of workforce funding administration from HECC to OED, ASWA26, funding changes, grant sunsets, possible board consolidation scenarios, and strategic priorities for the coming year.

Introduction to Systemic Changes Oregon and ASWA26

The Board discussed Oregon's transition of workforce funding administration to OED and potential federal WIOA changes under ASWA26.

Strategic Plan Modification

Leif discussed the need to consider future strategy in light of changing funding, service delivery models, consolidation discussions, and regional priorities.

Conferences in the Next Year

The Board discussed potential collaboration with East Cascades and possible future conference coordination.

EOWB Employer Conference

Staff reported that the Eastern Oregon Employer Conference had strong participation and positive feedback.

Open Discussion on the Future of the Workforce Board

Board members discussed future priorities, including internships, childcare, housing, small business engagement, sector partnerships, East Cascades collaboration, reentry funding, and direct service provision.

Priority Exercise Results

priority	Initiative	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High Priority	Priority Total
1	Internship Program Continuation		1	6	33
2	Increase # of sector partnerships		2	5	31
2	Employer Trainings		2	5	31
2	Direct Service Provision		2	5	31
3	Internship Program Expansion	1	1	5	29
3	Diversifying Funding	1	1	5	29
3	Pursue Re-entry Funding		3	4	29
4	Increased Alignment with Economic Groups	1	2	4	27
4	Employer Conference in Eastern Oregon	1	2	4	27

4	Community Project Funding		4	3	27
4	Incumbent Worker Training		4	3	27
5	Expungement Clinics	1	3	3	25
5	Second Chance Employment Outreach	1	3	3	25
5	Virtual WSO Options	1	4	2	23
5	OCC Program	1	4	2	23
6	Waitwhile and WSO Data Tracking	1	5	1	21
7	Pre-conference	3	3	1	17
7	More Collaboration with EC	3	3	1	17
7	Employer Conference Expansion with EC	5	2		11

Review and Approve January Meeting Notes
January meeting notes were scheduled for review and approval.

Approve Meeting Minutes from 1.15.26
Motion Carries with Voice Vote, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

Public Comment: None

Adjourn
By Susie Cederholm

Minutes by Leif Ryman