The first meeting of the newly formed Performance Measures and Financial Accountability Committee met on May 2, 2022. Per WDC Board action, the Finance Committee and Performance Measures and Accountability Committee were merged to reduce duplication. A portion of the meeting was spent reviewing the two committee’s roles and responsibilities to gain a better sense of duties of the reorganized committee.

Committee members discussed the following potential short- and long-term goals:

Establish sub-groups to have specificity since there were many different focus areas between the two previous committees of finance and performance measures.

Address students (e.g., recent high school graduates) that have certain difficulties due to the pandemic, focusing on getting them services and on-track to a career and employment. Also, more generally, knowing who our “customers” are, and how we communicate with candidates in this new post-pandemic environment.

Review how we “advertise” to potential service and training providers. Possibly utilize the Hawaii E-procurement system to advertise. There may be a broader long-term goal of ensuring we have enough service and training providers.

Develop a streamlined reporting system for more consistency and for more information available for members to understand the complex financials and budgets surrounding the WIOA program funding.

Understanding how new laws (e.g., minimum wage law) will impact employers and anticipating how their response will impact the work of the WDC.

The Workforce Development Division reported a total of 353 participants in the adult program; 188 enrolled in the dislocated worker program; and 221 individuals in the youth program. Kauai remains without a youth service provider and no participants. The State, through DLIR WDD, has assumed services for all three programs on Kauai. All of the local areas are using the PY 20 funding allocation and have not started expending the PY21 formula grant funds. The COVID-19 disaster recovery and employment recovery grants will end June 30, 2022. The local areas project expending a majority of the funds. Each grant award was $1.5 million to help those directly impacted by the pandemic.

The Committee requested a forecast of PY20 funds expected to be renumerated to the State so WDD can begin planning for the use of the funds (that must be expended prior to June 30, 2023). Available balance as of February 28, 2022 is $1.7M.

Special thank you to Brian Lee and Sean Knox for leading the Performance Measures and Accountability Committee, both serving as Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Lee now serves as WDC Vice Chair and Mr. Knox as Chair of the Special Projects Committee.

The Committee members acknowledged and expressed appreciation to Karen Wong as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. She and Chair Shannon Okinaka took time to study and understand the complicated federal WIOA grants and allotments to the local areas. Starting July 1, 2022, Kelly Ueoka will take on the role of Vice Chair. Mr. Ueoka is President of Paxca.