

City of Seattle Domestic Workers Standards Board Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2022, 6:30pm

Held via Zoom

Members Attending: Silvia González, Jordan Goldwarg, Baylie Freeman, Dana Barnett, Estefana Harry, Diana Salazar, Etelbina Hauser, Steve Hooper

Members Absent: Emily Dills, Liz Hunter-Keller, Edy Dominguez, Teresa Hillis

OLS Staff: Laine Middaugh, Jennifer Molina

Guests: Cristal Barragán (Spanish Interpreter), Elvia Cortes, Danielle Alvarado, Adriana Cruz, Theo Miller, Elodie Baquerot Lavery, Andrew Kashyap, Kim England, Jasmine Marwaha, Stacy Kono

Zoom Chat [Available Here.](#)

1. Welcome
 - a. Silvia called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Everyone introduced themselves via a fun guessing game!
2. OLS updates
 - a. Laine provided her first update as interim board liaison.
 - b. Unfortunately, due to the projected city budget deficit, the city's budget office informed OLS that \$100,000 will need to be cut from the board's \$500,000 allocation this year.
 - c. OLS is looking for "couch cushion" money to see if there is some additional funding that could be put back in.
 - d. This cut will also affect the funding allocated for the portable PTO work.
 - e. Best guess: \$350k to general work, \$80k to portable PTO work.
 - f. Questions/comments
 - i. Dana: It is very disappointing to get this news; is it possible to see the overall cuts across the city, to see what was cut and what was not; and is this a done deal, or is there some advocacy that we can do?
 1. Laine: We would not have gotten this money in the first place without advocacy. We would need to approach the mayor's office to learn more about other budget cuts.
 - ii. Stacy: We just went through a wonderful, community-driven, democratic process. It is really disappointing to have this contradiction with a cut that came out of nowhere.
 - iii. Danielle: How was it originally decided that portable benefits would be allocated \$100k? This will help to think about how to move forward with the cuts.
 1. Silvia provided an explanation
 - iv. Diana: As a board, are we able to schedule meetings with the mayor and council offices? Diana is willing to help schedule and coordinate. Dana and Jordan are willing to help.

3. Budget Workshop Result Presentation and Discussion

- a. Theo and Elodie shared a summary of the process that we went through to arrive at these recommendations.
- b. English recommendations are available [here](#).
- c. Spanish recommendations are available [here](#).
- d. Co-chairs decided to allow public comment before having the board vote on the recommendations.

4. Public Comment

- a. Danielle: very excited about a number of recommendations; wondering if it would be possible to combine some of the recommendations to create more holistic programming; wants to stress the staff time and infrastructure that are needed to support a promotora program; if we want to change enforcement practices, that will likely involve a cost to have community organizations partner with OLS on this
 - i. Recommends combining #2 and #6 (with funding combined)
- b. Elvia: Feels it's important to focus on portable benefits
- c. Stacy: Excited to see recommendations that help reach workers that are not already at the table; wants to increase funding for portable benefits, given that this will not only impact workers but will also help employers to get educated about portable benefits
- d. Laine: For portable benefits, the coalition may need additional time to go through what funding may be needed for various consultants related to the portable benefits development
- e. Silvia: Could we adjust other amounts so that we can restore a full \$100k to portable benefits?
- f. Kim: Would like to see portable benefits called out more specifically in terms of importance, so that it doesn't get buried by the other recommendations.
- g. Dana: Peer-to-peer organizing seems really important; so does the safety net work, but with only \$20k allocated this year, should we push pause on that and move it to portable benefits
- h. Jordan: Let's not fall into the trap of a scarcity mindset. There will hopefully be more money coming later on. What projects can we most easily spend the current funding on by the end of the year?
- i. Jasmine: OIRA is also working on some language justice initiatives; there may be opportunities for synergies

5. Voting on recommendations

- a. Dana suggested combining #2 and #6 (and combining the funding for them).
- b. Baylie suggested that #8 and #9 could be combined (safety net could become part of portable benefits, at least for now)
 - i. Dana agreed with this
- c. Jordan was curious if \$20k was a meaningful amount to start working on the safety net this year; Laine said this would require more research
 - i. Jasmine: before she left OLS, there was a group already working on a toolkit to protect immigrants who were being retaliated against; staff were excited to have some money to continue exploring that

- d. Theo shared a revised set of recommendations, which includes some contingencies for reallocating funds between recommendations if there is redundancy in the language access grants with work that OIRA is already doing.
 - i. Dana proposed, if there is redundancy in the language access, that \$20k be reallocated to the safety net proposal
 - e. Baylie made a motion to approve the revised recommendations; Silvia seconded the motion.
 - f. The board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Steve Hooper