

# City of Seattle Domestic Workers Standards Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2022, 6:30pm

Held via Zoom and in-person at OLS offices

Members Attending: Silvia González, Jordan Goldwarg, Baylie Freeman, Diana Salazar, Liz Hunter-Keller, Estefana Harry, Etelbina Hauser

Members Absent: Emily Dills, Edy Dominguez, Teresa Hillis, Steve Hooper

OLS Staff: Laine Middaugh, Becka Hawkins, Mark Hansen

Guests: Cristal Barragán (Spanish Interpreter), Stacy Kono, Jonny Arenas, Isabel Quijano, Elvia Cortes, Kim England, Luzmila Freese, Danielle Alvarado

1. Welcome
  - a. Silvia welcomed people to the meeting, with a special celebration for the fact that we have people meeting in person again!
2. OLS updates
  - a. Jennifer will be emailing the board an update about outreach.
  - b. Laine introduced Becka Hawkins, the new OLS Outreach Manager
  - c. Becka was previously working for different unions and is excited to be at OLS and partner with the board
  - d. Laine shared an update on the community organizing grants; the applications are currently open and close July 11
    - i. Up to 8 projects will be funded, ranging from \$25k-\$57k, all of which will help with outreach and building wider and deeper networks in DW communities
    - ii. At least \$50k will be for Asian/Pacific Islander communities; at least \$50k will be for African/Black communities
    - iii. Preference for projects that use a peer-to-peer organizing strategy (e.g. *promotores*)
    - iv. Applications must be submitted in English, but if applicants have trouble meeting this requirement, they should reach out to OLS for possible assistance
    - v. Projects that receive funding will be invited to present at a DWSB meeting next year to provide an update on their work
    - vi. Courtney Velazquez will attend next month's DWSB meeting to provide an update
    - vii. Jordan asked if Laine knows how many applications have been received so far; she will look into it and get back to the board
    - viii. Courtney is also working on getting representation on the review panel from the local philanthropic community, with the hope of raising the profile of DW issues and attracting more funding from local philanthropies
    - ix. Baylie asked what strategies have been used to advertise the grant to local communities

1. Laine deferred to Courtney, who is currently on vacation, but Silvia saw Courtney present at a local Filipino community organization, so word is getting out beyond current COEF partners
  2. Courtney also held an info session that has been recorded and is posted on the OLS website; a number of community organizations joined live
  3. Steve Marchese will also featured in a TV news story talking about the grants; Laine will forward to the board
- e. Mark Hansen provided an investigation update
- i. The first investigation under the DWO is complete!
  - ii. The employer in question violated a number of provisions of the DWO; the employer settled with OLS and agreed to a number of stipulations that they will need to follow if they employ another DW in Seattle
  - iii. The settlement paid \$71k to the worker
  - iv. A press release will be coming, which will hopefully encourage other workers to come forward, too
  - v. Baylie also suggested that OLS could publish a document outlining what a complainant could expect as they go through the process
  - vi. Jordan asked what can be learned from this example that could be applied in the future, given the challenges of complaints-based enforcement
    1. Mark said that the worker was able to leave the employer, got support from friends to come forward to OLS
    2. Is helpful to get the word out to workers that complaints can still be made after someone leaves their employer
    3. Silvia expressed her excitement that this case moved forward to a successful resolution
3. Report on Mayor's Office Meeting
- a. Last week, Silvia, Diana, and Jordan met with Monisha Harrell and Brianna Thomas from the Mayor's Office, with the goal of getting the \$100k restored that was cut from our budget allocation
  - b. It was a positive meeting, with Monisha and Brianna expressing openness to restoring the funding, if OLS can balance this with cuts elsewhere in the budget
  - c. Laine talked with Steve M this morning; OLS has already reallocated *some* of the funding (the recommendations that we adopted at our final meeting with Theo and Elodie were valued at \$430k, so there is already \$30k that OLS restored)
  - d. To find additional funding, we may need to go back to Council and try to get Jump Start funding
  - e. Laine suggested that once the grant application process closes, if there are a large number of applications, we could potentially use that to help with an advocacy push
4. Coalition Update
- a. Kim provided an update from the Coalition
  - b. Andrew Kashyap has left Legal Voice (and the Coalition)
  - c. The policy subgroup continues to focus on portable benefits and is looking at platforms that people would feel comfortable with

- d. In Seattle, based on surveys, workers don't seem to be as nervous about reporting their hours to the city
  - e. The Coalition is also having conversations with various council members to discuss being a champion for the portable benefits legislation
  - f. Danielle provided an update about needs assessment for portable benefits
    - i. There are focus groups being planned for later this summer
    - ii. Hand in Hand is developing an employer survey
  - g. Stacy thanked Laine for her attendance at Coalition meetings and being a strong partner in the work
  - h. The worker organizations in the Coalition are tentatively planning a worker assembly in the fall to gather more input and build community (perhaps with employers included, too)
5. Board Vacancies
- a. Laine provided an update on board vacancies (there are currently three)
  - b. Council will appoint two with the mayor appointing the third (all have indicated that they are seeking the Board's help to fill these vacancies)
  - c. Two of the seats are for hiring entities
  - d. One of the seats is for a worker who is NOT a representative of a worker organization
  - e. So far, there have been no applications for these seats
  - f. The deadline is currently July 1, but we will likely need to push this back
  - g. Some current members also need to be reappointed; Laine will follow up with people about this
  - h. Estefana suggested looking for home care workers who work with elderly people, as a category that is not currently well-represented on the board; she will reach out to her network to see if people are interested
  - i. Elvia also offered to share the posting with people in her network
  - j. Baylie asked if Casa Latina still has access to networks of gardeners; Silvia and Elvia confirmed that they do
  - k. Baylie suggested pushing the application deadline to August 1; the board agreed
6. Hybrid Meeting Logistics
- a. Baylie made a survey (in Spanish and English) to get information from people about hybrid meetings
  - b. Silvia pointed out the importance of having food at meetings, especially if we continue to meet at 6:30
  - c. Laine shared that the City is identifying rooms that are suitable for hybrid meetings, but that list is not available yet
  - d. Jordan asked if it would be possible to provide childcare at meetings; Laine said it would be possible to reserve two spaces
  - e. For both food and childcare, we would need to be careful about the budget and get commitments from people to be in person ahead of time so that we can plan for it
7. Public Comment
- a. There was no public comment.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.