# Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2018

Northwest African American Museum - Seattle

## Members attending:

Maud Daudon, Karen Lee, Paul Francis, Jan Yoshiwara, Jeff Charbonneau, Michaela Miller, Susan Reyes, Terri Standish-Kuon, and Yazmin Aguilar.

## Staff attending:

Michael Meotti, Rachelle Sharpe, Aaron Wyatt, Amelia Moore Ami Magisos, Becky Thompson, Crystal Hall, Isaac Kwakye, Marc Webster, Weiya Liang, and Kristin Ritter.

Chair Maud Daudon called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**LaNesha DeBardelaben**, Executive Director of the Northwest African American Museum, welcomed the Council and guests to the museum. The mission of the museum is to open minds and change lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history, culture, and art. The goal of their work is to enhance diversity, foster unity, and improve the quality of life for all.

## Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, including minutes from both August 23 and September 7, as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

## Washington Roundtable: The Path to 70% report

Brian Jeffries, Policy Director, Washington Roundtable/Partnership for Learning

In 2015, the Washington Roundtable aligned their goal to complement the state’s educational goals. They determined measurable milestones which, if increased, would lead to their goal by 2023.

1. High school graduation rate must increase to 95 percent
2. Postsecondary enrollment of those graduates must increase to 95 percent
3. Of those who enrolled, their postsecondary graduation rates must increase to 70 percent
4. Re-engagement of those who fell out of the system must increase by 7 percent.

Among other topics, Members discussed the challenge of students overestimating the cost of education, increasing graduation rates, and the need to eliminate equity gaps. Members also discussed strengthening supports for transfer students and creating multiple pathways to the workforce.

**Mayor Jenny Durkan**

The Mayor provided an overview of Seattle’s education levy and the goal to leverage education to address the city’s social and economic challenges. Members expressed their shared commitment to expanding and enhancing promising programs and initiatives, and recognized Seattle’s Youth Opportunity Initiative as an excellent example of a holistic approach to educational attainment.

**United Way of King County**

Lauren McGowan, Director of Family Stability

Opportunity pathways programs

Social service supports for college students

United Way of King County (UWKC) is providing help for students to complete their education through the Benefits Hub. The Benefits Hub is currently a coordinated one-stop shop for services at seven colleges in King County.

Members discussed leveraging services for undocumented students, food pantries on campuses, and 2-1-1, a national program that can connect people to a myriad of services.

**Perspectives from Different Populations**

Cordelia Revells, Refugee Resettlement Programs Manager, Jewish Family Services

Dawn Rains, Chief Policy & Strategy Officer, Treehouse

Michael Murphy, Director of Client & Community Services, Pioneer Human Services

Each of the presenters gave the Council an overview of their respective organizations and the services they provide. The presenters illustrated the barriers each of their unique populations face in pursuing education.

Member discussion centered on the long-term sustainability of current efforts, next steps, state funding, and other needed supports to ensure the continued operation of these vital services.

## Setting the Stage for our Future Policy Work

Isaac Kwakye, Director of Research

## Marc Webster, Director of External Affairs

Gray Sterling, Assistant Director of Policy and Planning

WSAC staff connected today’s discussions to the current and future work of the Council. Members discussed the need for greater services and support for older students who are currently enrolled or who would benefit in returning to school to finish their education.

Members also had an opportunity to welcome two new WSAC staff members to the policy team, Ami Magisos and Amelia Moore.

**Public Comment**

Jeff Charbonneau offered reflection on today’s conversation and hopes people are inspired to action.

Chair Maud Daudon adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.