

Meeting Minutes

Priority Hire Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: May 14, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting

Attendees: Maurine Karichu, Joe Baca, Lisa Bogardus, Robin Strom, Monty Anderson, Karen Dove, Osvaldo Guel, Dave Johnson, Jesse Franklin, Mary Lerdahl, Sonja Forster, Caroline Vidal, Sandy Hanks

Special Guests: Regi Hampton, Highline Public Schools, and Nidia Henriquez, Seattle Public Schools

I. Welcome and Introductions

Opening Remarks: Maurine called the meeting to order and welcomed PHAC members.

II. Overview of Agenda

Maurine gave a brief outline of discussion topics.

III. Master Community Workforce Agreement (MCWA) Renewal and Signing

Joe Baca announced that King County has renewed its Master Community Workforce Agreement (MCWA) for five more years. This agreement aims to help more residents access jobs in construction. It requires that public works projects include workers from priority hire ZIP codes. Any King County construction project that costs over \$5 million must follow these requirements.

The renewal was celebrated at a signing ceremony on April 28, 2025, with county officials and labor partners present.

IV. Overview of the New 5-Year MCWA

Joe Baca provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining key updates in the new Master Construction Workforce Agreement (MCWA), which largely retains the previous agreement

with some minor revisions. It maintains a “no strike” provision for Building Trades workers while ensuring that union labor is primarily employed for County projects. Open shop contractors can still bring the same number of core workers. The updated agreement is more concise, having removed an outdated drug testing policy in favor of relying on contractors to implement their own as per the contract documents. Overall, the MCWA, along with the Priority Hire Program, aims to create more jobs for local construction workers, diversify the workforce, enhance apprenticeship opportunities, and support economically distressed communities with family-wage jobs.

V. Priority Hire Grant Program Update

Maurine Karichu provided an overview and update on the county’s Priority Hire Grant Program, highlighting the status of grantee pilot projects and key milestones. This overview was enhanced by guest presenters from the Highline and Seattle Public School districts, who shared their achievements and results related to the projects supported by the Priority Hire Grant Program.

VI. PHAC 2025 Goals Discussion

PHAC members evaluated their goals and objectives for 2025, highlighting key priorities and strategic initiatives. The committee was then invited to provide input and feedback.

VII. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

A member of PHAC noted that schools are using the King County MCWA as a model for their agreements and measurable community impacts. Committee members expressed encouragement in the program's positive impact.

VIII. Adjournment

Closing remarks and appreciation to the attendees. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.