

**Metro South/West Workforce Board
Finance Committee Minutes
September 24, 2025**

Members Present on Zoom: Mark Fegley, Chair, Chris Vericker

Members absent: Alex Rodriguez

Others Present on Zoom: MSW WB: Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn, Louise Meyer, Carol Wolf, Consultant: Cindy Cedrone

Welcome and Approval of January 9, 2025 Minutes

Greg Bunn welcomed the members and turned the meeting over to Mark Fegley. Mark asked for a motion to approve the January 9, 2025 minutes. Chris Vericker made a motion. Mark seconded. Motion passed.

FY25 Year End Financial Reports

Carol Wolf presented the FY25 summary reports which exceeded the benchmarks with 38.4% remaining, representing carryover and multi-year grants. She noted that the management team meets frequently to discuss spending non-restricted funds compliantly and creatively.

FY 26 Annual Plan: Integrated Budget Walk Through

Carol presented FY26 Projected Budget vs FY25 Budget, noting the FY26 budget numbers will change when final amounts are submitted. The 17% difference is due to a reduction in WIOA funds, Trade funds and ARPA funds, the last year of the Behavioral Health and STEM grants, and also closing of the shelters. The budget will be offset with an increase in YouthWorks funds and two grants: Young Parents Program and Clean Energy.

- Mark asked for a motion to approve the FY26 Projected Budget to present to the Board on October 9.
- Chris Vericker made a motion to approve. Mark seconded it.
- Motion approved.

Greg noted that Wagner-Peyser requires that only State/Merit staff can deliver Title III services. Because of the State's hiring freeze, three state positions cannot be filled which has held up \$500K in funds. The Federal Department of Labor has proposed a rule change allowing states to opt out of this requirement. Greg has submitted comments supporting this proposal as part of a public comment period for cost savings and flexibility in hiring. He will keep the committee informed.

Greg and Carol expressed concerns about the FY27 budget and continue to explore other ways to increase funding such as bringing in new grants and increasing fundraising efforts. Mark would like to increase marketing strategies and perfect telling "the story". He asked for another meeting at the end of October and then quarterly meetings through FY26.

Chris asked for a narrative explaining the "lean years" to better understand previous challenges.

Mark asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris made a motion. Mark seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.