

## Apprentice Utilization Committee Meeting

12/6/2021

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

### **Attendees:**

Heidi Jensen, Brittney Arthur, Andrea Dahl, John Hurd, Jodie Harris, Josh Swanson, Chris McClain, Jon Deffenbacher, Jim Kaltenbaugh, Billy Wallace, Cory Elliott, Tara Buck, Valerie Whitman, Daniel Villao, Tom Zamzow, Chris Christopher, Jerry Vanderwood

### **Introductions**

Chris C. asked how covid and the state and federal mandates have impacted the various trades and/or companies. All responded that it has not been as significant impact as originally thought. Most responded that their office vaccination rates were higher than the tradespeople, and that there are still ongoing vaccination efforts. Overall, about 70% vaccination rate among trades, with office staff significantly higher. Tom Z. indicated the mandates have not impacted staffing jobs, and that all jobs have been staffed.

Jerry indicated there is some concern over the OSHA mandate of vaccination requirements over 100 people, but that there might be a test out option, mask option, or different requirements for outdoor work.

There were rumors of walk outs, or a loss of significant employees, but that never happened.

Chris informed the group that WSDOT lost approximately 400 people, and that everyone is working through it.

### **Program Update**

Heidi provided program updates and noted the number of projects we closed out in 2021 increased significantly. This may be due to 2020 slow downs because of covid, but now we are trying to catch up. We have added GFE reasoning codes on the completed report to add some understanding why our GFEs are increasing. We discussed only 2 projects indicated covid as a reason of not meeting apprenticeship requirements, and all agreed that trying to keep project personnel small was justified during covid. Safety has been and will continue to be top priority.

Heidi discussed 7999 (Seattle Tunnel Project) and we have added it to our completed projects. She discussed the fact that there is not physical work any longer, and at this point, we are waiting to finalize paperwork, final voucher signature, etc. Chris C. told the group that the project could be in litigation for years, and that any findings out of the lawsuits would not affect the labor hours worked on the job. Everyone in the group agreed we should add 7999 to our completed report this year and move on.

We discussed what keeps projects on the Active report. Heidi explained that the percentage complete on the report had to do with monies spent on the project, and that the projects might not be 100% physically complete. Jerry asked if the apprentice numbers could change on the active reports. Heidi explained that certified payrolls may not be in, and work may not be complete, so while the number could change, they would likely not change significantly. Five of the active projects have already submitted GFEs that have been approved.

The GFE approval process was discussed and noted that each project office approves or rejects the GFEs. Heidi explained that the contract provisions dictate what needs to be in the GFE, and that typically we see GFEs that are several pages long including correspondence from the prime contractor to labor organization, subcontractors, etc. The State Construction office distributes strike letters to those contractors that do not meet the GFE requirements.

### **Apprentice Programs Update – LNI**

Jim Kaltenbaugh gave a program update from LNI. He discussed an article that was recently published that stated the WA state apprentice program is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest school in WA state, only behind WSU and UW and there are approximately 22,000 people currently in the program. Jerry asked if all of those were in construction. Jim said the majority are (17K-18K) but that there were other trades incorporated as well, like cosmetology and health care.

LNI began in Q4 looking at projects requiring apprenticeship and of the 34 projects, 11 met utilization requirements, 6 through GFE, and 17 that did not have GFEs. Most of these were in the public school system, and he informed the group that there is a lot of turnovers in the public-school staffing.

Josh Swanson wanted to throw out for discussion the legislation proposal of HB 1308, which would require each firm to hold their own apprentice requirements over 200K, this is the same billed that stalled last year. The bill is like something that has been proposed in Spokane, and Valerie from MJK told the group she supports having a separate requirement for each subcontractor. There is also discussion of a per craft requirement, however, some oppose this idea. Jerry asked what it would look like if a per subcontractor requirement was implemented on top of any already in place requirement.

### **Schedule next meeting and assign topics:**

Heidi asked if there were any other discussion topics, but the group did not have any. She proposed the next meeting date either June 6<sup>th</sup> or June 9<sup>th</sup>. Most are open to either, so the meeting has been set to June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and she will send out meeting invites.

The meeting ended at approximately 3:40 p.m.