

# City of Seattle Domestic Workers Standards Board Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2022, 6:30pm

Held via Zoom and in-person at Casa Latina

Members Attending: Silvia González, Jordan Goldwarg, Baylie Freeman, Diana Salazar, Edy Dominguez, Estefana Harry, Etelbina Hauser

Members Absent: Steve Hooper, Liz Hunter-Keller

OLS Staff: Laine Middaugh, Jennifer Molina, Cynthia Santana

Guests: Laura Hurley (Spanish Interpreter), Isabel Quijano, Dana Barnett, Kim England, Estephany Gonzalez

1. Welcome
  - a. Baylie welcomed people to the meeting and opened at 6:35pm.
  - b. Baylie led the group in a round of Roses and Thorns.
2. Approval of minutes
  - a. Baylie made a motion to approve the September minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. OLS updates
  - a. Laine provided an update on the budget and per-diem situation.
    - i. Laine informed us that the mayor's budget for next year does not have any funding specifically earmarked for the recommendations of the DWSB; but some of the \$400,000 from this year will continue to fund projects that will continue into 2023.
    - ii. Any additional spending for the DWSB will have to come out of OLS's general operating budget, which may include proposed cuts for the coming year (like all other city departments).
    - iii. In 2023, we will need to complete our existing work and then advocate for more funding for 2024.
    - iv. As of today, per-diems for board members can be paid through Visa gift cards!
      1. Silvia asked if there is a time limit for requesting per-diems.
      2. Laine said that she is not aware of one, and per-diems can be retroactive to January 2022.
      3. Silvia thanked Laine for advocating to get Visa gift cards, rather than cards for specific retailers.
  - b. Jennifer provided an update on language justice grants.
    - i. As a reminder, we had \$40,000 allocated to provide language justice grants to help workers.
    - ii. The board directed OLS to research other similar efforts in city departments.
    - iii. OLS consulted with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA).
    - iv. OLS now has a multilingual voicemail message.

- v. Other goals/projects are also underway, especially focusing on resources on the OLS website.
- vi. Also exploring new partnerships with interpreters and a training program for interpreters to learn about domestic worker rights and labor standards.
- vii. Some of these projects can move forward with the funding already secured; some of the bigger strategies with other city departments will need to wait until a new source of funding is secured.
- viii. Etelbina asked which languages are being prioritized for translation/interpretation.
  - 1. Laine responded that Tagalog and French were among the priorities, to reflect an emphasis on reaching Asian and African communities. There may be other languages, too.
- ix. Diana offered to help with language justice work and has deep experience doing this work.
- c. Cynthia provided an update on outreach work to hiring entities.
  - i. Tentative dates for the campaign are January-February.
  - ii. Target audience is hiring entities, with a focus on letting people know about the DWO and their responsibilities.
  - iii. Cynthia shared a draft at the meeting for feedback.
    - 1. Board members suggested switching “housekeeper” for “house cleaner”.
- 4. Schedule retreat planning meeting
  - a. Baylie will email the group to plan a date for the retreat.
- 5. Discussion of National Bill of Rights
  - a. NDWA has been mobilizing for the national DW bill of rights.
  - b. Laine pointed out that other cities are looking to Seattle as a leader on this issue. How can we help to mobilize both the local community and other cities to support this national effort? And how can we get Seattle leaders to prioritize this in the budget?
  - c. Silvia pointed out that in meetings in DC earlier this year, members of Congress were interested in what Seattle is doing.
  - d. Silvia suggested that the DWSB send a letter to all members of Congress, urging them to adopt the national bill of rights (including the creation of a national standards board).
  - e. Baylie wondered if we could get the mayor and city council to sign the DWSB’s letter, or if they could send a separate letter.
  - f. Laine suggested that we ask NDWA when would be the best time to send a letter; we can then use that info to work with the mayor’s office and city council offices to draft something
  - g. Cynthia suggested that the mayor could actually send a proclamation, rather than just a letter
  - h. Dana has been interested in seeing a larger, in-depth article about the board’s work, which could serve as an education tool for other jurisdictions.
    - i. Possible resources for writing something:
      - 1. E. Tammy Kim (journalist)
      - 2. Harry Bridges Center at UW (via Dana)

3. Aspen Institute (think tank that interviewed Silvia, Dana, Jasmine, and Laine)
4. Dana's testimony at the Congressional hearing
  - i. Baylie offered to help draft a letter.
  - j. Next steps: contact NDWA to see what kind of letter would be helpful, and when.
  - k. Silvia invited everyone to attend the board's last meeting of the year on November 14 in person at Casa Latina to continue this conversation about supporting the national bill.
6. Community Building
  - a. Silvia stressed the importance of the board and community members building community in this meeting space. Even if it takes time, it's really important!
7. Public Comment
  - a. Kim expressed disappointment and frustration that the draft of the outreach materials to hiring entities still included language like "homeowners" and "housekeepers".
  - b. Kim shared that Ai-Jen Poo will visit Seattle on May 1 to deliver a talk at UW.
  - c. Dana will be doing an Instagram Live event with the author of *Essential Labor*, moderated by Stacy Kono. Here is the link to join:  
<https://www.facebook.com/domesticemployers/photos/a.250370908374522/5624778310933728>
8. Silvia led us through a beautiful breathing reflection to connect us to all the people in this struggle for DW rights, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.