

**Update with Pac Mtn.**

**January 25, 2021**

**3:30 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Cheryl Fambles of PacMtn, Tammy Martin, Daryl Lund

Guests: Peter Lahmann, William Westmoreland, Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Cheryl Fambles discussed the services the Pacific Mountain (PacMtn) Workforce Development Council

Cheryl noted that five counties are part of the PacMtn consortium: Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties.

Cheryl said Pac Mtn's mission is to help job seekers find and keep employment.

Cheryl said the top five industry sectors for continued unemployment insurance claims for April 12, 2020, to Jan. 2, 2021, were as follows:

- Health care and social assistance (1,384)
- Accommodation and food services (1,170)
- Retail trade (1,099)
- Construction (1,079)
- Manufacturing (808)

Cheryl said the number of employed county residents has dropped from 33,159 in January 2020 to 31,721 in November 2020. She said Lewis County's unemployment rate rose from 6.7 percent to 7.1 percent during that time.

Cheryl noted that veterans comprise 10 percent of PacMtn's adult population, compare to 7 percent statewide and 5 percent across the country.

Cheryl said Lewis County needs to appoint someone to represent the business community. She suggested the commissioners consider appointing EDC Executive Director Richard DeBolt.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Peter Lahmann and Bob Guenther for their efforts on PacMtn.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.