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Bobby Jindal, Governor
Edward Rispone, Chairman

Workforce Investment Council

2009 Occupational Forecasting Conference
Tuesday, September 8, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 River Road North
Baton Rouge, LA

Members of the Conference Present:

Tim Barfield
Tia Edwards
James Henderson
Dr. Yu Hsing
Dr. Dave Norris
Edward Rispone
Ernest Stephens, *designee for Louis Reine*
Karen Zoeller

Members of the Conference Absent:

Stephen Moret

LWC Staff Present:

Beverly Joseph
Cynthia Douglas
Dino Demarte
Glenn Dugas
Kelly Ebey
Raj Jindal
Patty Lopez-Grainer
Eric Raymond
Bill Rodice

Others Present:

Dr. Stephen Barnes
Kathy Bobbs
Waylen Gibbs
Rudy Gomez
Wayne Mitternacht
C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen
Dr. Lisa Vosper

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Occupational Forecasting Conference (OFC) was brought to order by Mr. Edward Rispono, Chairman of the OFC.

Explanation of Industry and Occupational Surveys

Dino Demarte, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) Research and Statistics (R&S)

Handouts were given to members regarding the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data. The information is based upon reports submitted quarterly by Louisiana employers and includes all employees on the Louisiana payroll who work or received pay for the week that includes the 12th of the month. Excluded are self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestic workers and railroad workers. Data elements captured through employment wages is based on three categories; ownership, parish and North American Industrial Classification (NAICS) Code. There are twenty different survey forms which are categorized by association. The historical QCEW data is also used as a basis for occupational projections.

Mr. Demarte indicated the OES (wage survey) staff make numerous follow up calls to employers to improve their response rate after the initial mail out, but either their phone calls are not returned or they are told that since the survey is not mandatory they just don't have staff to fill it out.

Most small companies are contacted by phone but the larger companies are contacted by an email to their HR director after the initial mailing. Only thirty percent of the surveys are returned after the first mailing.

The wage survey staff, they would prefer to get the data in an excel format so the employer does not really have to fill in the form mail if the electronic spreadsheet is easier. The wage surveys are sent out in two panels; one panel begins in May and the other begins in November of each year.

Karen Zoeller suggested placing an alert in industry newsletters when the survey is sent out. Dr. Hsing suggested holding workshops training business on how to complete surveys. The LWC-R&S section indicated they would work with the WIC.

2008-2018 Preliminary Statewide Long-Term Industry Projections

Patty-Lopez Grainier, LWC-R&S

Ms. Lopez gave a description of the preliminary projection codes used on the surveys. The 2008-2018 Preliminary Statewide Long-Term Industry Projections are based on regression analysis and 10 year data trends. Ms. Lopez is working with Dr. Loren Scott and Dek Terrell, Louisiana State University (LSU).

Glenn Dugas, Lafayette Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Administrator, commented how important OFC surveys are to the local workforce areas.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.