



950 North 22nd Street
ACME Building, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(O) 225-342-1625
(F) 225-342-1619
www.laworks.net

Bobby Jindal, Governor
Edward Rispone, Chairman

Workforce Investment Council

2009 Occupational Forecasting Conference
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 A.M.
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 River Road North
Baton Rouge, LA

Members of the Conference Present:

Tia Edwards
Dr. Yu Hsing
Dr. Dave Norris
Louis Reine
Edward Rispone
Monty Sullivan, *designee for James Henderson*
Karen Zoeller

Members of the Conference Absent:

Tim Barfield
James Henderson
Stephen Moret

LWC Staff Present:

Curt Eysink
Beverly Joseph
Cynthia Douglas
Dino Demarte
Glenn Dugas
Raj Jindal
Patty Lopez-Grainer

Others Present:

Jay Bulot-Office of Elderly Affairs
Mary Lou Potter-Board of Regents
Stephen Barnes-LSU
Chris Schmidt-LSU
Alana Madison-House Labor Committee

Call to Order:

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

The minutes from the September 8, 2009 OFC meeting were reviewed and approved with no opposition.

Development of Regional Data – Methodology Briefing

Dr. Dek Terrell-Louisiana State University

Dr. Terrell is working with the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) on a basic approach, focusing on the following:

- LWC Statewide forecasts focused on long run trends (Micromatrix)
- Allocation to Regions based on shift/share models (Micromatrix)
- Identifying key driver firms in Louisiana
- Obtaining detailed information on those firms
- Modifying forecasts to account for firms specific information

Dr. Terrell gave two examples of statistical modeling growth changes in an area after an extraordinary event such as Hurricane Katrina. The two examples were food and beverage chains and the General Motors (GM) plant in Shreveport, La. The key points were:

- Good statistical models should always be the starting point
- Forecasts are always a mix of art and science
- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita make life harder and create numerous changes that must sometimes be factored into the models
- In some sectors, local knowledge trumps statistical models

Two percent of Louisiana's businesses have 100 or more firms and employ 44% of Louisiana workers. Large firms are more likely to generate funds from outside Louisiana that support the local economy. The formula for identifying "key LA firms" is computed wages time industry specific multiplier equals an estimated economic impact for approximately 109 thousand employers in the state of Louisiana. They are ranked based on output, wage and job creation. Currently 146 key firms have been identified based on a CEO or similar level contacts, other contacts in firm, trade associations, economic developers, etc.

Dr. Terrell commended Ms. Karen Zoeller, Vice President of Workforce Development of the Louisiana Hospital Association for working with LSU in developing the healthcare projections.

Louisiana 2009 OFC Planned Projections 2008-2018 Milestones

Cynthia Douglas, Director – Workforce Investment Council

Ms. Douglas gave a brief overview on the 2008-2018 milestones. Ms. Douglas indicated that the OFC was at a point in the process in which they could massage the forecast and make changes to data before the next step of the overall forecasting process took place. Ms. Douglas is currently working with Raj Jindal, Patty Lopez-Granier and Dino Demarte-(Research and Statistics) on reviewing the complete process. Raj Jindal indicated that the 2006-2016 projections could be found on the LWC website and used as a reference point.

Chairman Rispone did a recap of the discussions that the OFC would like to address at the next meeting:

- ✓ Calling upon the industry sectors involved to give accurate information
- ✓ Analyzing the actual forecast
- ✓ Actual forecast presented to the council to make suggestions
- ✓ Where are we on supply side and demand side

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am.