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Bobby Jindal, Governor
Edward Rispone, Chairman

Workforce Investment Council

2009 Occupational Forecasting Conference
Tuesday, December 15, 2009
9:30 A.M.
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 River Road North
Baton Rouge, LA

Members of the Conference Present:

Tia Edwards
Dr. Stephen Barnes, *designee for* Dr. Yu Hsing
Dr. Dave Norris
Edward Rispone
Karen Zoeller

Members of the Conference Absent:

Tim Barfield
James Henderson
Stephen Moret
Louis Reine

LWC Staff Present:

Beverly Joseph
Cynthia Douglas
Dino Demarte
Raj Jindal
Patty Lopez-Grainer

Others Present:

Lawren Taylor-House Labor Committee
Dr. Lisa Vosper-Board of Regents
Dr. Stephen Barnes-LSU
Phyllis Mouton-Baton Rouge Community College

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 November 10, 2009 OFC meeting were reviewed and approved with no opposition.

A Review and Discussion of the 2006-2016 Occupational Forecast Data Layout

Patricia Lopez-Gramier- Research & Statistics (R&S)

Handouts that were included in the packets showed projections for all occupations 2006-2016 sorted by growth and education requirements and the estimated lowest and highest reported wages for workers in occupations that earn an equal or less wage. Dr. Barnes explained the living wage data and what was included in the calculations.

Tia Edwards, Deputy Director shared a study from the University of Washington on the Center for Women's Welfare called the *Self-Sufficiency Standard*. The Self-Sufficiency Standard determines the amount of income required for working families to meet the basic needs at a minimal adequate level, taking into account family composition, ages of children, and geographic differences in costs.

Recommended Adjusted Employment Forecast 2008-2018

Dr. Dek Terrell and Dr. Stephen Barnes – Louisiana State University (LSU)

Dr. Terrell provided a handout on the Preliminary Louisiana 2018 Employment Industry Forecast which summarized the suggested revisions to the preliminary statistical forecasts and the recommended adjusted employment forecasts for 2008-2018. Initially, a baseline statistical model is used comparing it with other trend models as well as contact information used with business leaders. The key observations were:

- The current forecast (with recommended adjustments) implies annual job growth of 0.8% in Louisiana from 2008 to 2018.
 - This compares to average annual job growth of 1/1% over the 1994-2004 period, the last ten years prior to Hurricane Katrina.
 - As another comparison, US forecasts for 2008-2018 project average annual growth to be 1.0%.
- This translates into 158,176 total net new jobs between 2008 and 2018 in the NAICS codes covered in this report. These estimates exclude self-employed individuals and unpaid family members.
- The regions projected to grow most rapidly are Houma, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge with annual growth of 1.3%, 0.9%, and 0.8%.
- The regions projected to grow most slowly are New Orleans and Alexandria with annual growth of 0.3% and 0.6%.
- The industry sectors projected to grow the most are Health Care and Social Assistance; Accommodations and Food Services; and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services with annual growth of 2.0%, 1.6%, and 1.3%.
- Several industry sectors have projected declines in employment. The biggest percent decrease is Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting with negative growth of -2.0%. The Utilities industry sector is projected to have the second largest percentage decrease in employment with a forecast of -0.3%.

Items to address at the next OFC meeting:

- ✓ January 19, 2010 will be a joint OFC and WIC all day session, inviting the WIBs to attend
- ✓ Designated LWC staff person to travel around the state visiting proprietary schools, business and industry, etc. collecting data
- ✓ Prior to January 19 meeting, post data on the LWC website and ask for feedback by January 4th
- ✓ There will be no February OFC or WIC meeting-on the road to each region

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.