

Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
Wednesday, December 17, 2008
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Governor's Press Room
4th Floor-State Capitol

Members of the Council Present:

Tim Barfield	Terry Baugh
Jacqueline Beauchamp	Richard Billings
James Bulot	Gary Warren, designee for Julie Cherry
Sally Clausen	Camille Conaway
Donald Denese	Art Farve
Janet Durden	Clarence Fields
Richard "Rick" Gremillion, Jr	Robert Wayne Huckeba
Jimmy LeBlanc	Joe May
Mike Mitternacht	Charles Moniotte
Stephen Moret	Richard Noles
Mike Palamone	Louis Reine
Edward Rispone	Craig Roussel
Jorge Tarajano	Don Trahan
Jim Urdiales	

Members of the Council Absent:

Madhu Beriwal	Kathy Bobbs
Keith Brand	Cameron Henry
Avon Honey	Ginger Laurent
Keith Myers	Kristy Nichols
Thomas O'Neal	Neil Riser
C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen	

Resignations from the Council:

Don Cravins
Nannette Noland
Allen Stewart

LWC Staff Present:

Dee Bolden	Dwan Johnson
Fredell Butler	Kami McDonald
Michael DeMarte	Johnny Riley
Cynthia Douglas	Raj Jindal
Tia Edwards	
David Ellis	
Curt Eysink	
Patricia Lopez-Granier	

Meeting Minutes:

The inaugural meeting of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council (WIC) was brought to order by Tim Barfield, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), followed by the introduction of the LWC staff in attendance and the general audience.

Mr. Eddie Rispone was introduced as the chairman of the WIC. WIC members introduced themselves stating their industry or stakeholder affiliation.

Council appointees filled out forms for the administration of the oath of office and reviewed disclosure rules. Peter Wright, LWC General Counsel, administered the oaths and responded to questions regarding ethics.

Executive Director Barfield began his presentation with an explanation of why there was a need for a change in addressing Louisiana's workforce crisis. As a result, based on the Administration's proposals, the Legislature enacted comprehensive Workforce Development Reforms, including Act 743 of the 2008 Legislative Session which, among other things, created the WIC and transformed the Department of Labor into the LWC. The Act serves as a clear response in meeting the challenge of finding workers with the right skill sets to meet the needs of existing Louisiana companies as well as prospective companies. The Administration's comprehensive reforms for workforce development, which the Legislature unanimously supported, include the following initiatives:

- Integration of workforce development programs and demand-driven service delivery responding to the needs of business and industry.
- Strengthening role of Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS)
- Rapid response capability
- Fast Start program
- Education (K-12)

To illustrate the importance of the Administration's Workforce Development Reforms and the Act, Executive Director Barfield reviewed the attached presentation entitled *A Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Louisiana's Workforce Crisis*. Executive Director Barfield told the Council that they will be making decisions that will impact the future of Louisiana as states compete more for available and quality workers. He further stated that we want an environment where existing businesses can flourish and can get the workforce they need. A primary purpose of the WIC was identified as being the entity to forecast workforce priority needs so that appropriate training opportunities can be developed to meet demand. Moreover, the vision is that all programs over which the state has control or influence will be aligned to the high priority needs as defined by the WIC. As the occupational forecast goes, so will the workforce development system.

The LCTCS initiatives have begun. Gov. Jindal's "Day 1 Guarantee" to ensure workers with LCTCS certificates and degrees are ready to work on their first day or will be retrained for free has been implemented. However our goal is to get it right the first time so no one needs to be retrained.

The “Fast Start Program” led by LED and LCTCS has begun. Secretary Moret stated that Georgia is the lead state in customized training and has been ranked at the top for the last several years. The goal is for Louisiana to be in the top three in approximately three years. This will greatly assist in the successful attraction of new businesses to and expansion of existing businesses in the state.

Next in the presentation was a brief description of the WIC; specifically, the WIC is set up as a policy making and performance measuring entity with, in the opinion of Executive Director Barfield, the occupational forecast being its most important duty.

Executive Director Barfield completed a review of the binders handed out to the council members identifying specific sections and pages of Act 743 that should be highlighted for importance. Council members were asked to review Act 743 in its entirety with emphasis on the following:

- the role of the Louisiana Workforce Commission and its oversight of the Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs),
- for the Commission to serve in a policy and advisory role to the governor,
- to measure the performance of the state’s workforce development system,
- the occupational forecasting conference,
- the duties and functions of the WIC (beginning on page 39),
- industry based certifications and their importance,
- national certifications and/or portable credentials,
- apprenticeship programs,
- the need to align with regional priorities,
- assisting the LWC system in requesting waivers from the federal government, and
- the review of local plans developed by the WIBs , as they are the foundation for setting policy for the One-Stops.

A brief overview of the Occupational Forecasting Conference was given. The major points of emphasis were:

- a conference is held at least two times a year,
- the conference will use a multitude of methodologies and include input from stakeholders, other agencies and organizations,
- the conference will focus on jobs that drive economic development or address critical needs, as well as provide a career path and living wage instead of filling a job for the sake of having a job.

Council members were encouraged to make contact with their local WIBs. The LWC has a responsibility to train the WIC and the WIB members on all aspects of workforce and the workforce system.

Council members were allowed to ask questions:

Question 1: Will council member’s designees and WIB members have the same financial disclosure requirements as the members of the Workforce Investment Council? Peter Wright indicated that he will obtain a ruling and report back to the council members.

Question 2: Have the members of the Occupational Forecasting Conference been chosen? Executive Director Barfield stated that the selection of the members was not completed. Note: The membership of the Occupational Forecasting Conference is outlined in Act 743.

Other Business:

Council members were informed that their confirmation as a member of the Workforce Investment Council would be confirmed by the Senate and Industrial Relations Labor Committee as required by statute.

Staffing of the WIC will be supplied by the LWC. Executive Director Barfield recommended that Cynthia Douglas serve as the Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council. Louis Reine indicated that Ms. Douglas was currently working with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and that a replacement for Ms. Douglas should be found prior to her leaving the CDBG program to make sure there was no interruption to the administration of the program within the LWC.

The next meeting of the WIC will be February 2009 and the focus will be Occupational Forecasting and the Occupational Forecasting Conference. It was further noted that the WIC will meet every other month.

Council members present were presented with their Workforce Investment Council certificates signed by the Governor

The meeting was adjourned.