

Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
Tuesday, April 21, 2009
1:35-3:30 p.m.
Governor's Press Room
4th Floor – State Capitol

Members of the Council Present:

Tim Barfield
Jacqueline Beauchamp
Madhu Beriwal
Richard Billings
Kathy Bobbs
Keith Brand
Julie Cherry
Donald Denese
Art Farve
Clarence Fields
Jim Henderson, designee for Joe May
Robert Wayne Huckeba
Jimmy Leblanc

Charles Moniottte
Keith Myers
Richard Noles
Thomas O'Neal
Mike Palamone
Louis Reine
Edward Risponne
Craig Roussel
Jorge Tarajano
Katrina Thomas
Don Trahan
Jim Urdiales
C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen

Members of the Council Absent:

Terry Baugh
Kathy Bobbs
James Bulot
Sally Clausen
Camille Conaway
Janet Durden
Richard "Rich" Gremillion, Jr.

Cameron Henry
Avon Honey
Ginger Laurent
Mike Mitternacht
Stephen Moret
Kristy Nichols
Neil Riser

LWC Staff Present:

Dee Bolden
Cathy Breaux
Fredell Butler
Greg Declouet
Michael DeMarte
Cynthia Douglas
Tia Edwards
Patricia Lopez-Granier

Don Howard
Raj Jindal
Beverly A. Joseph
Johnny Riley
Robert Roux
Howard Sanders
Peter Wright

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council (WIC) was brought to order by Mr. Edward Risponse, chairman of the WIC. WIC members introduced themselves stating their industry or stakeholder affiliation.

Chairman's Comments:

Mr. Risponse stated the WIC packets are mailed out at least one week in advance but will now be emailed. Everything will be included in the email with the exception of the presentations. The members were in an agreement that the packets will be emailed prior to the WIC meetings.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes were approved for the February 17, 2008 meeting with no opposition.

Ethics-Personal Financial Disclosure of Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Members (WIC) Status Update

Peter Wright, General Counsel for the Workforce Commission stated the Ethics Personal Financial Disclosure deadline is May 15, 2009. The General Counsel's office submitted a request for an advisory opinion on behalf of WIC to the Louisiana Board of Ethics as to whether the WIC members are required to report personal financial disclosure statements. Per the opinion, the council does not have a budget to expend, nor the ability to disburse or invest more than \$10,000. The financial disclosure requirement only applies to those boards that are subject to that requirement. Designees of WIC members are subject to the same reporting requirements. Mr. Wright will contact Cynthia Douglas when further clarification is received and the information will be forwarded to the council.

Occupational Forecasting and Performance Measurement Update by University of Louisiana Lafayette**-Workforce Forecasting Conferences**

Dr. Susan Aysenne did a recap on working with the Louisiana Workforce Commission on setting up the Forecasting Conferences. The conference will focus on Baton Rouge to target 800 to 1000 participants. ULL is working on the details and will forward the information to the council soon.

- Evaluation of Effective Workforce Development Programs

ULL will develop an evaluation on workforce development programs and provide feedback on the Strategic Plan to the council.

- Strategic Planning

SSA Consultants reviewed the former Workforce Commission Strategic Plan and received guidance on the current expectations.

Ramesh Kollura - ULL Recap

-Workforce Simulator Highlights

Real career ladder attached to the occupations and soft skills training were necessary to get a job. Individuals should have the capability to leave a training program and be ready to work.

The data from the occupational forecast will assist in getting information that is more current.

- Underemployed and “Stimulus Fund”

Identify opportunities for use of stimulus funds for workforce development.

High demand/high vacancy occupations with low educational “barriers to entry.”

Identify occupations with career opportunities.

-Post Secondary Supply/Demand Gap Analysis

Compare the post secondary supply on high demand occupations by state and region.

Assist LWC in meeting their legislative mandate to provide guidance to the Board of Regents for funding recommendations.

Tim Barfield encouraged council members to go back to industry organizations define priorities, looking at occupational needs and career opportunities. A survey will be mailed to council members to access their business needs.

Action Item – Occupational Forecasting Conference Principals

Executive Director Barfield explained the purpose of the Occupational Forecasting Conference (OFC).

Nominee letters were mailed to the stakeholder organization by the WIC staff. Director Barfield recommended Eddie Rispono to be named Chairman of the OFC and Mike Palamone and Art Farve as the council’s nominees to the OFC Conference. Nominations are due to the Governor’s office July 1, 2009. The recommendations were with no opposition.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Package Presentations)

Director Tim Barfield - LWC – ARRA of 2009 (Stimulus Package Overview)

OWD – 67.4 million available. All programs are currently in existence.

- Each category of WIA funding itemized will be split 85% as a pass through for local Workforce Investment Areas (WIA) and 15% for statewide activities.
- The 15% from each category can be pooled to implement our workforce development priorities, administer the programs, and invest in high-demand sectors and job categories that drive our economy, such as health care, energy, skilled trades, transportation and logistics, and film and digital media.
- Statewide activities include \$1.09 million for job skills training for Department of Corrections offenders in local re-entry jail facilities. Anticipate reaching 1,800 offenders within one year.
- Additional amounts will be used to grow training opportunities and for acceptance of the statewide Work Ready Certificate for adults.

Charlotte Minor – LHFA – Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Stimulus 2009

Department of Energy released their application guidelines for Allocation of \$5 billion along with the list of states and local governments who will receive the allocations. Louisiana’s allocation amount is \$50,657,478:

- Program and Administration \$41,752,855
- Training and Technical Assistance \$8,894,623
- WAP Stimulus will be regulated under DOE’s existing WAP Program. LHFA will develop one State Plan, to include both the regular 2009 allocation and stimulus funds.
- WAP provides cost-effective energy efficiency measures for existing residential and multi-family housing with low-income residents.

- The LHFA will conduct a general funding process through a request for proposal (RFP) to establish a contact with bidders for the service delivery required for the Stimulus Funds.
- To accomplish the objectives of the Recovery Act and track performance and production, the LHFA is proposing to operate a separate project entitled “Louisiana WAPMax.”

Patrick Dobard – DOE – FY 2009-2010 ARRA (Stimulus)

Below is a list of allocations to local school systems and other recipients per applicable State and Federal guidelines. The list of allocations has been approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- Title I Funds, direct grants \$176,442,888
- IDEA Part B \$188,186,439
- Preschool 46,895,656
- State was recognized for assurances as a leader and innovator.
- Department of Education and local school districts become more of a support organization, Superintendent working in collaboration with local schools.
- Focus on failing schools to create a world class education for children.
- Monitoring systems throughout the state.

Jim Henderson – Higher Education – (In collaboration with LCTCS) Stimulus Funding

LCTCS did not receive a direct stimulus allocation

The total amount dedicated to education in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund is approximately \$290 million per year. Higher Education will receive \$218.7 million per year of this amount based on the allocation criteria established in the Act.

- Funding to be used to restore state support for Higher Education to its 2008 or 2009 funding level, whichever is greater.
- Align higher education funding with state priorities.
- Target critical workforce needs with workforce training Rapid Response fund.
- Expand access to higher education through online learning.
- Eliminate duplicated courses, improve student transfer and enhance retention through common course numbering.

WIA and Wagner Peyser Act five-Year Strategic Plan Planning Process

Robert Roux (Policy Team)

USDOL is requiring that the states modify their State Plan by describing adjustments to current strategies on new activities that are related to ARRA implementation. States are to update the Governor’s vision, strategies, and service delivery designs, which reflect Employment and Training Administration’s (ETA’s) strategic vision for how Recovery Act funding should be used in responding to immediate needs of the state and the transformation of the workforce system to achieve a new level of effectiveness.

LWC Policy Team is currently working on the Plan and focusing on three primary sections:

- **Section I. Context, Vision, and Strategy**
- **Section II. Service Delivery**
- **Section III. Operations**

Greg Declouet and Cynthia Douglas along with Robert Roux are charged with compiling information necessary for the State Plan and submitting it to the national office. A draft of the plan will be available on

May 18 for the WIC members. It will be on LWC's website for public comment in June. WIC review of the plan is tentatively scheduled for May 28, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.