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Bobby Jindal, Governor
Edward Rispone, Chairman

Workforce Investment Council

Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2009
1:00 PM
Capitol Park Welcome Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Members of the Council Present:

Sue Anne Cox
Gary Warren, *designee for Keith Brand*
Kathy Bobbs
Jason Dedon, *designee for Julie Cherry*
Curt Eysink
Rick Gremillion
Pat Smith, *designee for Avon Honey*
Wayne Huckeba
Ginger Laurent
James Bueche, *designee for Jimmy LeBlanc*
Gina Jones, *designee for Mike Mitternacht*
Deidra Bolden, *designee for Kristy Nichols*
Charles Moniotte

Ray Barker, *designee for Craig Roussel*
Richard Noles
Mike Palamone
Tim Overmier, *designee for Louis Reine*
Edward Rispone
Mary O'Brien, *designee for Neil Riser*
Jorge Tarajano
Don Trahan
Jim Urdiales
Joe May
Katrina Thomas
C.A. Vandersteen

Members of the Council Absent:

Terry Baugh
Tim Barfield
Madhu Beriwal
Jacqueline Beauchamp
James Bulot
Sally Clausen
Donald Denese
Janet Durden

Art Farve
Clarence Fields
Cameron Henry
Stephen Moret
Keith Myers
Thomas O'Neal
John Young

LWC Staff Present:

Fredell Butler
Lynn Dias-Button
Greg Declouet
Cynthia Douglas
Beverly Joseph

Tara Lachney
Johnny Riley
Anissa Rubin
Howard Sanders

Others Present:

Cloyce Clark III-Office of the Governor
Ava Dejoie-Department of Education
Alana Madison-House Labor Committee
Dr. Lisa Vosper-Board of Regents
Will Minton-Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Phyllis Mouton-Baton Rouge Community College
LWIA 10, LWIA 11, LWIA 21, LWIA 40, LWIA 41, LWIA 50, LWIA 70

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Workforce Investment Council was called to order by Edward Rispone, Chairman of the WIC.

Donald Denese, retired business manager resigned from the council. He served as a representative of organized labor. Robert "Wayne" Huckeba, training manager at CITGO retired from the council and the CITGO corporation. He served as a representative of the general business community. A reception was given in his honor upon adjournment of the meeting.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the November 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed by the council and approved with no opposition.

Chairman Rispone did a recap of the Occupational Forecasting Conference meeting. It was recommended that the OFC and WIC have a joint meeting on January 19, 2010. An invitation would go to the WIB directors and the chairs to attend the meeting. Items to be discussed will be the occupational forecast data; where we are today, the formatting and feedback on the data received. Chairman Rispone commended the Research and Statistics staff on the data submitted to the OFC.

Tia Edwards, Deputy Director briefed the council on the occupational forecast data and the importance of getting feedback from the different industry sectors. There will be regional engagement meetings held throughout the state in February 2010. Both OFC and WIC meetings will be cancelled in February 2010.

Action Item-Workforce Investment Board Certification-Howard Sanders, Director, Office of Workforce Development Staff from Lafayette, New Orleans, Opelousas, Rapides, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Hammond represented the local Workforce Investment Areas. Of the 18 WIBs represented, 17 WIBs met the certification criteria and were respectfully submitted to the council for approval. The certifications were motioned and approved with no opposition.

Action Item-Workforce Investment Council Strategic Plan, 2nd Draft – Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants A motion was made to approve the Strategic Plan with suggested edits and changes as amended. The Plan was approved with no opposition. The Strategic Plan will be mailed to Governor Bobby Jindal's office for final approval.

Action Item-Selection of Council Representation for the LA Rehabilitation Council-WIC Staff Cynthia Douglas, Director of the Workforce Investment Council, gave an overview of the Rehabilitation Council and when the council meets. The LA Rehabilitation Council listens to the concerns of those with disability issues, review, analyzes and evaluates the state rehabilitation program, collaborates with other state agencies, organizations and consumer groups. There is a two-year term limit on the LRC. The LRC meets every other month for 1 and ½ days. Chairman Rispone will serve on the council and Cynthia Douglas will serve as his designee.

Update of the WIC Presentation to the Postsecondary Education Review Commission-Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants Kathy Bobbs and Art Farve represented the council at the PERC meeting on November 16, 2009. Tia Edwards, Deputy Director of Louisiana Workforce Commission also attended the meeting. Chairman Rispone recommended to the council to keep the PERC Statement handy and review it.

Newly appointed Sue Anne Cox, Principal Owner/CFO of Kleinpeter Farms Dairy introduced herself before the council. She will represent general business industry.

Department of Education Presentation on Biz2School-Ava Dejoie, Business Liaison, Department of Education Don Trahan and Jim Owens gave an introduction on the Biz2School Program. Ava Dejoie provided handouts of the presentation on Biz2School. The Biz2School is an online matching system offering a central location to merge the offerings of Louisiana business with Louisiana schools' needs. Six school districts are pilots for Biz2School. The Biz2School System not only serves as a directory of schools and businesses, but also allows for an easy communication system.

Ms. Dejoie explained the goal of the Business 2 School System is to bridge the gap from the classroom to the workplace. The majority of projected jobs in Louisiana for the next 10 years require more than a high school diploma, but less than a 4-year degree. Responding to this critical workplace shortage and skills gap requires new thinking and new approaches. Education must provide meaningful and rigorous academic preparation, but also be relevant to real-life work applications. Linking educators and students to real-time business and industry requirements is critical to the future success of our citizens and our state. For more information on Biz2School, visit the website at www.biz2school.com.

Other Business

Chairman Rispone asked Mr. Huckeba to give remarks on his career with CITGO.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.