



Workforce Investment Council

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Bobby Jindal, Governor
Edward Rispone, Chairman

Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

9:30 a.m.

*Louisiana State Police Training Academy
7901 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, La 70806*

Members of the Council Present:

Art Favre
Charles Moniotte
Craig Roussel
Executive Director Curt Eysink
Chairman Eddie Rispone
Ginger Laurent
Hilda Curry
Whalon Gibbs designee for James Leblanc
Jason Dedon
Jim Urdiales
Jimmy Sawtell designee for Dr. Joe May
Darryl Ward designee for John Young
Jorge Tarajano
Julie Cherry
Kathy Bobbs

Keith Brand
Chad Lauga designee for Louis Reine
Michael Mitternight
Michael Palamone
Rep. Patricia Haynes-Smith
Deidria Bolden designee for Secretary Ruth Johnson
Terry Baugh
Tom O'neal

Members of the Council Absent:

Alden Andre
Cameron Henry
Charles "Buck" Vandersteen
Senator Elbert Guillory
Jacqueline Beauchamp
Janet Durden
Katrina Thomas
Keith Myers
Senator Neil Riser
Paul Pastorek
Richard Gremillion
Richard Noles

Ronald Williams
Secretary Stephen Moret
Stafford Palmieri

Guests in Attendance

Ronnie Pocrell
Lavonda Stewart
Jim Owens
John Searles
Raj Jindal
Lauren Rispone

Juergen Amling
Lisa Vosper
Wynetta Wilson

Invited Guests

Stephen Harris, LWC
Cindy Smith, LWC

I. Comments From The Chair:

Chairman Rispone greeted the council and discussed the items on the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes:

A draft of the minutes from the December meeting was given to each member for their review. A request was made that the attendance specifically identifies the designee for each member and distinguishes between the designee and a guest in the record. A motion was passed that the minutes be approved under the condition that the attendance portion, identifying the designees and visitors, be corrected. That motion was second.

Action Item: Include the 2011 attendance record in each packet

III. Discussion of Wage and Tax Records

Stephen Harris and Cindy Smith with the Louisiana Workforce Commission discussed the importance of tax verification and the fact that there are a large number of businesses that are non-compliant with their wage and tax reporting. Due to the federal mandates that the Louisiana Workforce Commission has to adhere to it is important that all employers comply with this procedure. In October of 2009, letters went out to all employers that were not in compliance with the filing procedures. There will be a 5% penalty assessed to those that have not followed the proper procedure in filing their wage and tax records. There is also a considerable cost to the agency to decipher those claims that have errors or have been filed inaccurately. As they roll out the outreach efforts to enforce the law and make employers aware of the penalties, they are initially targeting employers with 200 or more employees and also those employers that are submitting their forms without a social security number or without a complete social security number. All forms are being mailed to employers but are also available on line at www.laworks.net.

IV. Update on Industry-Based Certifications

Charles Moniotte gave an update on the Industry-Based Certification Council. The law states that the purpose of the IBC is to facilitate the development of an industry-based certification assessment for occupations requiring a certain skill standard. A draft of the application being created was brought before the executive council. A task force is being created to revamp the program, define the criteria, list the programs and what they teach and to clarify the certifications that are currently in place. The Executive Council will review the focus list and the application that is being developed. The Council will also review the re-certification process and if those that have been certified are still meeting the criteria.

V. Status of Workforce in the State

Curt Eysink, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission gave a status on workforce in Louisiana. The monthly employment bulletin analyzes the workforce needs of the state and what is being done to meet those needs. The information showed the size of the labor workforce before Katrina and that it has taken Louisiana almost 6 years to return the workforce back to where it was pre-Katrina. That information comes from an employer survey. There is another survey that comes from households that tells the size of the labor force in Louisiana. That number is derived from those in the household that are working and those that are unemployed but looking for work. Those levels have also returned to where they were pre-Katrina. The labor force is up 3% since January 2008 and is continuing to grow. The monthly employment bulletin is available online.

VI. Other Business

Chairman Rispone re-iterated the importance of a designee if you are unable to make the meetings and that he will be contacting those members with frequent absences. Also with the help of Claudeidra Minor, they will be developing an online questionnaire that will focus on the Workforce Investment Council. Each member was asked to think about the Council and the direction in which it is headed. The questionnaire will allow each member to give their thoughts and suggestions as it pertains to the goals and purpose of the Council.

Adjournment