Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2011
9:30 a.m.
Louisiana State Police Training Academy
7901 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, La 70806

Members of the Council Present:
Alden Andre
Art Favre
Jerome Eymard designee for Craig Roussel
Executive Director, Curt Eysink
Chairman, Eddie Rispone
Ginger Laurent
Elmiere Elledge designee for Hilda Curry
Jacqueline Beauchamp
Whalen Gibbs designee for James Leblanc
Jason Dedon
Dr. Joe May
John Young
Jorge Tarajano
Julie Cherry
Karen Zoeller designee for Kathy Bobbs
Katrina Thomas
Garry Warren designee for Keith Brand

Louis Reine
James Patterson designee for Mike Mittenight
Michael Palamone
Mary O'Brien designee for Senator Neil Riser
Jim Owens designee for Paul Pastorek
Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith
Richard Howze designee for Sec. Ruth Johnson
Stafford Palmieri
Jason El Koubi designee for Sec. Stephen Moret
Terry Baugh
Tom O'Neal

Members of the Council Absent:
Rep. Cameron Henry
Charles Moniotte
Charles "Buck" Vandersteen
Senator Elbert Guillory
Janet Durden
Jim Urdiales
Keith Myers
Richard Noles
Richard Gremillion - Resigned
Ronald Williams

Guests in Attendance
Dara Antee
Rob Roux
Lisa Vosper
Debbie Cruz
Raye Nell Spillman
Shana Veade
Penny Collins
Cynthia Douglas
J. Abel
Sandra Redmon
Jay Augustine
Virgie Rodgers

Katie McCarty
Glenn Dugas
Wynette Wilson
Tina Johnston
Stephanie Seemion
T. Butler
Brenda Hubbard
Kelly Ebey
Mike Morris
Monty Sullivan
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 January meeting was given to each member for their review. A motion was passed that the minutes be approved. That motion was second.

III. Presentation on 2011 Legislative Agenda by WIC Agency Partners

A. Department of Economic Development – Jason El Koubi
Jason El Koubi with The Department of Economic Development the incentive programs that they have available for businesses to take advantage of when relocating or doing business in Louisiana. One of the programs is the Quality Jobs program. This program allows a cash rebate that provides 5-6% rebate on annual payroll expenses for up to 10 years and either a 4% sales/use tax rebate on capital expenditures or an investment tax credit equal to 15% of qualifying expenses. Another program that they will be presenting is the Digital Media Incentive program. This is a tax credit program that provides a 25% tax credit on qualified production expenditures and a 35% tax credit for Louisiana resident labor expenditures. The Research & Development Tax credit is a program that provides up to a 40% tax credit for Louisiana businesses (based on employment) that conduct research and development activities in Louisiana. This is a change in the rebate structure in order to be eligible you must have incurred federal research and development expenses and/or received SBIR/STTR grant(s).

B. Louisiana Community and Technical College System – Dr. Joe May
The Louisiana Community and Technical College System is working with the Governor’s office to try and take advantage of the health credit that is available and also introduce a bill that would bring technical college tuition rates up; over a 3 year period and provide waivers for students who can’t afford new tuition rates. The LCTCS policy agenda will align tuition rates with market demand to maximize federal pell grants that are available, standardize tuition rates so students’ zip codes don’t determine how much they are charged for college, raise tuition cap from 12 hours to 15 hours and standardize interface computers systems needed for LCTCS online.

C. Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Whalen Gibbs
The Department of Public Safety and Corrections’ legislations relate to the prison systems and not workforce development.

D. Louisiana Workforce Commission – Jay Augustine
The Louisiana Workforce Commission’s legislative proposals relate to two statues that are already in place. As it stands the current statute requires that employers be charged a base-period experience rating, based on UI benefits accrued and paid during the base-period unless the employer meets the three (3) current exceptions which include:
   a. benefits paid that are not reimbursed from federal funds
   b. benefits paid, but the claimant is finally determined ineligible
   c. benefits paid, but the claimant remained employed by a base-period employer, without a reduction in hours worked or wages received
The proposed legislative amendment will include a fourth base-period experience rating exception for instances when the employer had to pay a benefit but it is later deemed the fault of a third-party.

The other proposed legislation is a change or update in a current provision. The current statute prohibits minors under 16 from working more than three hours a day when school is “in session”; the proposed clarification defines in session in accordance with the calendar of the school or school district in which the minor is enrolled.

E. Office of the Governor – Stafford Palmieri
The Governor’s office’s legislative package is a reform package for higher education. That includes:
   1. Structural Reform – Forming a single board for higher education which will act as a single entity for higher education, streamline administrative oversight, increase operational efficiencies and improve student outcomes. Also, post-secondary solutions for New Orleans which includes re-imaging postsecondary services to meet regional workforce needs and maximize resources.
2. **Maximizing Constituent Parts** – Enhancing GRAD Act, strengthening GRAD Act contracts, granting operational autonomies and improving data and transparency.

3. **Empowering Schools** – Standardizing community and technical college tuition, aligning student credit hours with tuition and covering mandated costs.

4. **Supporting Student Success** – Redirecting constitutionally protected dollars to TOPS.

**IV. Presentation by LCTCS on Workready U-Adult Education Pro Forma Business Plan**

Dr. Monty Sullivan gave a presentation on the Workready U-Adult Education business plan. During the 2010 regular session the Louisiana Legislature finalized a transfer of responsibility for adult education programs from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. The purpose is to expand adult education beyond literacy and GED attainment and focus on work-readiness and sustainable employment. It also provides Louisiana’s least educated citizens a path to work. Many residents are lacking a minimum set of skills and technical training required for sustainable wage jobs. It also focuses the state’s limited education funds on the more than 600,000 adults throughout the State who do not have a high school equivalency diploma. Many are either unemployed or underemployed. The priority goals include:

a. High School Equivalency Diplomas
b. National Work-Ready Certifications
c. Postsecondary Program Enrollments
d. Postsecondary Program Completers
e. Sustainable Employment Placements

**V. Consideration and Approval of Adult Education State Plan Extension**

The US Department of Education is requesting another extension of the State Plan for Adult Education by April 1, 2011 for FY 2011-2012. The La Community and Technical College System must have an approved extension to receive federal adult education funds. The office of the Governor, Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, is the entity designated to receive and approve the Extension of the State Plan for Adult Education. The motion was made and carried for the Extension of the State plan.

**VI. Consideration and Approval of Adult Education State Plan Amendment**

Pending the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the U.S. Dept of Education and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education must request a one-year extension of the existing act that expired in FY 2004. The Extension of the State Plan for Adult Education for FY 10-11 must be revised to reflect the open competition process to take place in FY 10-11. The Office of the Governor, Louisiana Workforce Investment Council is the entity designed at receive and approve the Extension of the State Plan for Adult Education. The motion was made and carried for the amendment.

**VII. Presentation by Louisiana Department of Education on Dual Enrollment, Industry-Based Certifications and Work Based Learning**

Dr. Paul Theriot, Debbie Cruz and Evelyn Blanson gave a presentation addressed the council regarding Dual Enrollment, IBCs and Work Based Learning. Dual Enrollment is the simultaneous enrollment of a student at both a secondary and a postsecondary institution. The student receives both postsecondary and secondary credit on their transcripts. An Industry Based Certification is tangible evidence that an individual has successfully demonstrated skill competencies in a specific set of work-related tasks, a single occupational area, or a cluster of related occupational areas as recognized by a specific industry. The credentials are issued by an industry or industry group, verifying that an individual has met the skill standards, as minimal requirements to successfully enter the workforce and compete in that particular area. Work Based Learning programs provide opportunities for CTE students to receive on-the-job training and related classroom instruction in all CTE program areas. Work Based Learning includes, but is not limited to, cooperative education and internships. Students taking part in WBL opportunities receive high school credit while working at a job site related to their career pathway.

**VIII. Update on Functional Alignment of Workforce Investment Boards**

Curt Eysink addressed the council regarding an update on the functional alignment of the Workforce Investment Boards. He discussed the efficiency of having fewer WIBS and how the solution should be locally driven and the responses should come from the region. He also reiterated the fact that he does not have the authority to force a consolidation but they are working with the regions to come up with a workable solution. Curt also acknowledged the
WIB members from around the state that were present at the meeting. A representative from LWIA 61, Rapides parish also addressed the council with regard to her area. She informed them that the consolidation plan that they were presented with does not seem to work for their area but they are collaborating with the agency partners to create a design that is a better fit for all involved. Curt stated that they are still working with the WIBs in each region and are pushing forward with this effort.

IX. Status of Accountability and Performance Measures
Claudeidra Minor addressed the council and gave a brief overview on the status of the accountability and performance measures. She gave a brief history on the development of the measures and the agency partners from which the results will come. She also gave a list of the measures that they will pilot. A detailed presentation will be given at the May Workforce Investment Council meeting.

X. Other Business
Chairman Rispone encouraged all members to complete the survey they were given and asked that they provide comments and feedback as to whether or not they felt the Workforce Investment Council was moving in the right direction. They were also made aware that a new Chairman and Vice Chairman will have to be selected this year.

Adjournment