Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 9:45 a.m.  
Louisiana State Police Training Academy  
7901 Independence Blvd  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

Members of the Council Present:  
Alden Andre  
Art Favre  
Charles Moniotte  
Charles “Buck” Vandersteen  
Craig Roussel  
Exec. Director Curt Eysink  
Chairman Eddie Rispone  
Ginger Laurent  
Bryan Gautreaux designee for Hilda Curry  
Whalen Gibbs designee for Sec. James Leblanc  
Jim Urdiales  
Dr. Lisa Vosper designee for Commissioner Jim Purcell  
Monty Sullivan designee for Dr. Joe May  
Darryl Ward designee for John Young  
Jorge Tarajano  
Johnny Sabathe designee for Julie Cherry

Members of the Council Absent:  
Rep. Cameron Henry  
Senator Elbert Guillory  
Jacqueline Beauchamp  
Janet Durden  
Jason Dedon  
Katrina Thomas  
Keith Brand  
Keith Myers  
Sen. Neil Riser  
Ollie Tyler  
Richard Noles  
Secretary Ruth Johnson  
Stafford Palmieri  
Richard Gremillion - Resigned

Guests in Attendance  
Jim Owens, DOE  
Penny Collins, LWIA 21  
Terri Mitchell LWIA 83  
Gloria Abels, LWIA20  
Kelly Ebey, LWC  
Brian Gautreaux, City of New Iberia  
Michael Garvey, LWIA11Sondra Redmon  
LWIA60  
Lynn Dias-Button, LWC  
Cynthia Douglas, LWIA21  
Shana Veade, House of Reps  
Stephanie Seemion, WIB Area 51  
Johnny Riley, LWC  
Dawn Hall Fleming, WIB Are a 21  
Jacques Lasseigne, LWC  
Fredell Butler, WIRC Solutions  
Bryan Moore  
Mike Morris  
Virgia Rodgers  
Elaine Morace, RBCSC  
Anna Sweat, RBCSC  
Mary Brouse, BBRPSS  
Carey Foy, LWC  
Mary Brouse  
Phyllic Mouton, BRCC
I. **Comments From The Chair:**
Chairman Rispone greeted the Council and discussed the items on the agenda.

II. **Approval of Minutes:**
Motion was made to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Motion was accepted and seconded.

III. **Consideration and Approval of Occupational Forecasting Conference Reports.**
Dr. Stephen Barns, with LSU Division of Economic Development, addressed the Council with regard to the second review of Louisiana 2018 employment industry forecast. The information summarized the suggested revisions to the current 2018 employment forecasts and acknowledged some key observations. Every 2 years a 10 year forecast is developed. The suggested revisions to the current 2018 employment forecast are as follows:

a. Include input from the Louisiana Drivers Firms, which is a list of 150 firms that have either top 100 direct employment or top 100 economic impact.

b. Includes economic development projects and major announcements from employers through the state.

c. While specific forecasts may have been changed significantly in a few cases, the overall effect of all recommended changes is relatively modest with the 2018 forecast for statewide employment increasing by only 2,422.

d. The New Orleans, Shreveport, and Lake Charles RLMAs had increases in overall forecasted employment relative to the current 2018 forecast.

e. While the forecast still projects employment growth for all regions, the Baton Rouge, Alexandria, and Monroe RLMAs had modest decreases to the 2018 forecast resulting from this year’s review.

f. Total forecasted 2018 employment for the Lafayette and Houma RLMAS remained unchanged after this year’s review, though changes were recommended to the staffing patterns.

A motion was made to accept the Occupational Forecasting Conference Reports. That motion was accepted.

IV. **Update on Workforce Investment Funding for Program Year 2011**
Curt Eysink, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, addressed the Council with regard to the Workforce Investment Funding Program. He informed the Council that there had been a 49% cut in federal funding and the funds received from Wagner-Peyser have also decreased. The traffic at our 1 Stop Centers has doubled from 2009-2010. The Louisiana Workforce Commission is trying to avoid layoffs by offering a retirement incentive to free up some positions and reduce payroll. They are also piloting a program where unemployment claimants will be linked in the system to receive career coaching and job announcements. After 10 weeks of receiving benefits they are supposed to go back to the Business and Career Solutions Center for another coaching session. If they fail to use these services their benefits will be terminated. LWC is also identifying the top occupational groups that draw unemployment and the cumulative total of unemployment insurance claims by industry. 86% of all UI claims are filed online so they are working to improve the online self service tool and identifying the UI claimants that are also enrolled in school. Everyone was also provided a La Workflow Chart that identified the process in identifying the workforce needs of employers.

V. **Status of Functional Alignment of Workforce Investment Boards**
Johnny Riley, Director of the Office of Workforce Development, addressed the Council with regard to the efforts to align the Workforce Investment Boards. He discussed what he thought would assist in this alignment. His suggestions included having a summit that included the CEO and the Workforce Investment Board Chairs to discuss and encourage the alignment. He also informed everyone on the efforts for a new system that will aid in getting the unemployed employed in a more timely fashion. One reason for the realignment is the location of some offices and the cost and affordability of keeping those offices running. Some regions have already begun to work together in an effort to better serve the community.

VI. **Overview of Proposed Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization Bill**
Rob Roux, legal counsel with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, addressed the Council with regard to the Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization Bill. On June 9, 2011, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) released a staff discussion draft proposing to reauthorize WIA Title I –
System Alignment and Innovation. The following day Title II was released concerning Adult Education and Family Literacy. Since that time Titles III, IV, and V have been released. Some of the proposed changes are:

- a. The WIC would change by requiring representation from 1/3 business, 1/3 labor and 1/3 government.
- b. WIC would be responsible to oversee compliance, provide technical assistance and responsible for the direct administration of the WIA program throughout the State.
- c. Directors of each LWIB and the Director of the WIC would be subject to qualifications determined by a task force.
- d. The State Plan would be subject to approval from 3 federal departments.
- e. The age requirement for the Adult Program portion of WIA would change from 18 to 22.
- f. Local Workforce Investment Areas are grandfathered in by the new legislation.

All members were asked to look at the summary of these drafts that are posted on the Louisiana Workforce Commission page and also a draft of the letter that was prepared and sent to Senators/Representatives outlining the issues with the proposed changes. All members were given a list of the Senators on the HELP Committee.

VII. Presentation and Discussion of Accountability and Performance Measures
Kelly Ebey, with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, provided the Council with information on the accountability and performance measures. She showed LWC’s performance according to the measures set by the Department of Labor and under the Workforce Investment Act. The information showed the yearly goals and whether we met, exceeded or failed to satisfy those goals. The goals are set by looking at the labor market information and give a realistic outcome of where we think we will be. After that the benchmarks are set and 18 areas work together to achieve the goals that have been made. The handout showed the Workforce Investment Act Indicators and if we were able to meet or exceed those goals and what goals we failed to meet.

VIII. Overview of Workforce Investment Council Member Survey Results
Lynn Dias-Button, Public Information Director for the Louisiana Workforce Commission, discussed the results of the WIC member survey that was developed to allow each member the opportunity to anonymously give their opinion as to how they felt WIC was performing and if they felt the Council was effectively carrying out the duties they were charged with under the Workforce Investment Act. The survey was sent to all members on March 14th then again on April 13th. There were a total of 20 responses (51% rate) from the members. Along with the responses to the questions that were developed, there was also an opportunity for each member to leave a comment and detail the things they felt the WIC should focus on for 2011.

IX. Other Business
All members were provided with a list of their term with expiration date. Several terms are set to expire at the end of June. The Governor’s office has been notified and is aware of the expiring terms. The reappointment process was suspended until the legislative session ended and has resumed. They will then be in contact with the nominating entities. If any member is interested in serving an additional term they are advised to contact their nominating committee so they can make the Governor’s office aware of this. Also, Art Favre has agreed to be the Chairman for the Nominating Committee for the selection of a Vice-Chairman. Those meetings will begin once the Governor’s office appoints a new Chairman.

Adjournment