

Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
Tuesday, February 17, 2009
1:30-4:08 p.m.
Governor's Press Room
4th Floor – State Capitol

Members of the Council Present:

Tim Barfield
Terry Baugh
Madhu Beriwal
Richard Billings
Kathy Bobbs
Jason Engels, designee for Keith Brand
Julie Cherry
Sally Clausen
Camille Conaway
Donald Denese
Art Farve
Clarence Fields
Richard "Rich" Gremillion, Jr.
Avon Honey
Robert Wayne Huckeba

Ginger Laurent
Joe May
Mike Mitternacht
Charles Moniottte
Keith Myers
Roseland Starks, designee for Kristy Nichols
Thomas O'Neal
Mike Palamone
Louis Reine
Edward Rispone
Jorge Tarajano
Don Trahan
Jim Urdiales
C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen
Waylen Gibbs, designee for Jimmy Leblanc

Members of the Council Absent:

Jacqueline Beauchamp
James Bulot
Janet Durden
Cameron Henry
Richard Noles
Neil Riser
Craig Roussel

LWC Staff Present:

Dee Bolden
Fredell Butler
Michael DeMarte
Cynthia Douglas
Tia Edwards
David Ellis
Curt Eysink

Patricia Lopez-Granier
Raj Jindal
Beverly A. Joseph
Robert Roux
Howard Sanders
Peter Wright

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council (WIC) was brought to order by Tim Barfield, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), followed by Mr. Edward Rispone, chairman of the WIC. WIC members introduced themselves stating their industry or stakeholder affiliation.

Chairman's Comments:

Mr. Rispone stated the importance of the various action items that will go before the Council in the future as well as the specific functions outlined in Act 743. He stated that one of the most important attributes of the Council was the representation on the Council from all sectors of the economy including state government. Mr. Rispone further indicated that it was the Council's duty to use this year and the upcoming year to develop a plan to carry out the recommendations that would be made by the Council, complete occupational forecasting, and to make sure that the actions of the Council were communicated to the communities that the members represent.

Election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Governor Bobby Jindal appointed Mr. Rispone as chairman of the Workforce Investment Council in December 2008. In accordance with Act 743 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, the members of the Council shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from the members representing business and industry appointed by the Governor, every odd-numbered year. A motion was made by Tim Barfield and seconded by Joe May that the council elect Mr. Edward Rispone chairman to serve for the next year. With no opposition, Mr. Rispone was elected to serve as chairman of the WIC. A motion was made by Tim Barfield and seconded by Richard Billings that Jacqueline Beauchamp be nominated to serve as vice chairperson of the WIC. With no opposition, Ms. Beauchamp was elected as vice chairperson of the WIC.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes were approved with corrections for the December 17, 2008 meeting. (Correction: Clarification was given on the legislative body that will confirm the members of the WIC, as required by statute.)

Action Item:

Debi K Faucet, Division Director of the Division of Dropout Prevention, Adult and Family Services presented the council with an action item, *Approval of the Proposed Revisions to the Extension of the State Plan for Adult Education* to comply with Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). The adult education program provides education to adults 16 years and older who are no longer in a high school setting. This service is provided in over 400 sites that include school districts, technical college sites and faith based organizations. This program is operated in a manner which provides open and diverse access. By law the program is also required to coordinate activities with the 18 local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Approximately \$5,000 is dedicated to this effort. There is also coordination with the Department of Social Services through the Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program.

Due to the pending reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education must request a one-year extension of the existing act that expired in FY 2004. An extension was granted by the USDE/OVAE for FY 2008-2009. USDE/OVAE is requesting an additional extension by April 1, 2009, for FY 2009-2010. The Governor designated the WIC as the entity receive and approve the extension.

The following changes were made to the existing plan: (1) The monitoring cycle of each site will be changed from a 3-year cycle to a 5-year cycle; and (2) Continuation of existing funded entities for the upcoming year. The rationale given for the changes included (1) The DOE has a better database and is now compiling data on a quarterly basis necessary to adequately access the status of the programs; (2) Budget cuts have reduced the flexibility of allowing staff to review the statewide program on the three year cycle. It was noted that the enhancements to the database will provide risk assessments and other essential information to determine the status of the program therefore the change to a five year monitoring cycle will not adversely impact the integrity of the programs; and (3) The program is moving away from an annual competitive cycle of awarding grants and moving toward a multi-year cycle of competitive grants. This will allow for more comprehensive programs. Chairman Rispono requested that The Department of Education come before the WIC on an annual basis to present this program and include in their presentation fiscal data and statistical data. The Plan was approved by the WIC with no opposition.

Presentations:

I. Christel C. Slaughter, SSA Consultants, LLC gave a presentation on the Goals and Duties of the WIC per Act 743 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session. Major points of emphasis presented by Ms. Slaughter were:

The WIC, created within the Louisiana Workforce Commission, serves as the state workforce board for the purpose of developing strategies that assure continued improvement to the State's workforce system.

- The WIC will serve in an advisory capacity to the governor on the needs of the State's employers and the State's workforce.
- Through input from public and private entities, the WIC will create a strategic plan "common vision" and outcomes that will coordinate and integrate a workforce development delivery system that will ensure that resources are equitably distributed statewide.
- The WIC will direct the Occupational Forecasting Conference in determining official information that will ensure that resources are equitably distributed statewide. The findings of the Occupational Forecasting Conference will be reported July 1.
- The WIC will prepare an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on their progress in developing strategies of continued improvement to the State's workforce system.

Chairman Rispono stated that the WIC is charged with numerous duties and functions and it will be beneficial moving forward that the duties and functions are prioritized.

II. Donna Nola-Ganey gave a presentation on the *EMPLOY Project (Educational Mission to Prepare Louisiana Youth)*. The Department of Education has crafted a plan in conjunction with the Workforce Commission, the Governor's Office and other state agencies to take immediate action to help potential dropouts to be successful and to exit school with a meaningful credential. The focus is on students in grades 6-9 with a goal of providing an intervention that will make them successful. The PreGED/Skills Options Program was established almost a decade ago to serve as a safety net for those students over age in middle school to give them an option to dropping out. The intent of the program was to allow the students to work toward obtaining a GED and a marketable skill for employment. The Pre-GED/Skills Option Program serves more than 10,000 students, however, fewer than 600 have received their GED and even fewer have earned an Industry Based Certification.

Fourteen (14) districts were targeted for immediate action which began January 1, 2009.

The districts, both rural and urban, were selected based on the high number of students in the Pre-GED/Skills Option Program as well as the high number of over age in a grade. Students must be 16 years-of-age to participate in this program. Additional factors used to select the districts included the location in proximity to a Technical College, and the availability of work-based learning options. The Department of Education received approximately \$2.5 million in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds and three hundred fifty thousand in state funding.

The program is designed on the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) and includes 5 essential components:

- The use of an intensive scripted curriculum that was developed by the Department;
- A 37 JAG Core Competencies (Soft Skills Training) and Work Keys Assessment for attainment of a Work Ready Certificate;
- Dual enrollment in a Technical College and/or Industry Based Certification training;
- Participate in a worked based learning (paid work experience)
- Each student is assigned an adult mentor.

Tim Barfield made an appeal to businesses and industry representatives on the WIC to assist in providing internships for students. He further stated that at the state level all current resources as well as future resources, such as stimulus dollars, will be reviewed for opportunities to provide paid work experiences. Fredell Butler is the Louisiana Workforce Commission contact for the internship initiative. Chairman Rispone asked Ms. Nola-Ganey to provide a report to the WIC on the number of students that will be employed, where they will be employed, and the types of occupations by districts including the rural parishes. Ms. Nola-Ganey said that they will also provide dual-enrollment information to the WIC.

III. Dr. Ramesh Kolluru-Director for Center for Business and Information Technologies University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Dr. Susan Aysenne, Chief of Operations-Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning presented a proposal for developing a Supply and Demand Workforce Simulator in an effort to provide an improved tool for analyzing the gaps between Louisiana's demand and supply of workers by skill, industry and region. With this data, there will be the ability to answer "what if" questions for policy formulation and analysis. ULL, in contracting with the LWC, will also be working with the WIC to identify sources of relevant and current information data for improving the occupational forecast. Susan Aysenne, chief of operations of Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning discussed the P-Card Center. An example was given of data collected regarding poverty in Orleans Parish. Analysis based on the National Center for Children in Poverty's Family Simulator, Louisiana 2007 showed net resources for a single income family with two children, ages 3 and 6.

The project will support the Louisiana Workforce Commission with:

- Workforce Forecasting Conferences
- A Workforce Simulator
- Evaluation of Workforce Development Programs
- Workforce Commission Research Council

- Partnering with research institutions in Louisiana
 - Rapid Response Research
- Strategic Planning

Patty Lopez-Grainer discussed the 2006-2016 Occupational Projections, 2008 Vacancy Survey and the Web-Site Highlights of Labor Market Information. She suggested to the council to sign up for email notifications on the web-site.

Council Notices:

A change was made to the WIC annual meeting schedule. Due to the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, April 27, 2009-June 25, 2009, the June 15 meeting date has been changed to June 30, 2009.

Mr. Rispono stated the items to be discussed at the next meeting

- Update on High School Redesign will be discussed at the next meeting
- ULL will have information on Occupational Forecast
- Executive Director Tim Barfield will present information on Work Keys
- Stimulus Package.

Council Members Comments/Suggestions

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.