

Workforce Information Advisory Council

Summary of Meeting
Virtual Meeting and Conference Call
2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. EST
January 25, 2018

The Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC) convened for a virtual meeting and conference call at 2:00 P.M. on January 25, 2018. The Council was convened pursuant to Section 308 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) (Pub. L. 113-128), which amends section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 (29 U.S.C. § 491-2) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. App.) and its implementing regulation at 41 CFR 102-3.

Mr. Steven Rietzke, Chief, Division of National Programs, Tools, and Technical Assistance (DNPTTA), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Council, convened the meeting, which was open to the public in its entirety. Council Chair Cynthia Forland facilitated the meeting.

In Attendance

Members of the Workforce Information Advisory Council

Cynthia Forland, Washington State Employment Security Department (chair)

Bruce Madson, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Mathew Barewicz, Vermont Department of Labor

Jennifer Zeller, Georgia Power, Community and Economic Development Department

Mark McKeen, General Motors

Chelsea Orvella, Society of Prof. Engineering Employees in Aerospace, IFPTE Local 2001

Bruce Ferguson, CareerSource of Northeast Florida

Andrew Reamer, George Washington University

Members of the Council Not In Attendance

Angela Pate, University of Florida Startup Quest, OwnForce, Inc.

Staff

Steve Rietzke, Chief, DNPTTA, ETA (DFO)

Mike DeMale, ETA

Don Haughton, ETA

Robert Viégas, ETA

Mike Horrigan, Office of Employment and
Unemployment Statistics (OEUS), Bureau of
Labor Statistics (BLS)

Rebecca Rust, BLS

Ruth Peebles, The INS Group, LLC

Donald Palmer, Jr., The INS Group, LLC

Michelle Serrano, The INS Group, LLC

Kristin Thompson, The INS Group, LLC

Roger Therrien, Coffey Consulting, LLC

Dani Abdullah, Coffey Consulting, LLC

Mason Erwin, Coffey Consulting, LLC

JJ Ketchum, Coffey Consulting, LLC

Others Attending All or a Portion of the Meeting

Doug Holmes, UWC, Inc.

Emma Northcott, NASWA

John Marotta, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) and LMI Institute

Christina Peña, Workforce Data Quality Campaign (WDQC)

Javier Miranda, US Census Bureau

Melodee Lane, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

Paul Schacht, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Annette Miller, Montana Department of Labor & Industry. Research & Analysis Bureau

Rachel Moskowitz, State of New Mexico

Tony Glover, Wyoming Research & Planning

Alexandra Hall, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

David Lipnicky, ETA Dallas Regional Office

Cliff Atkinson, ETA Dallas Regional Office

Teresa Theis, ETA Dallas Regional Office

Jerome Watter

(Members of the public in attendance were asked to identify themselves and their respective organizational affiliations. Where affiliations are not noted, it is because they were not provided by the attendee.)

Proceedings

Welcome/Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2018

MS. FORLAND opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and expressing excitement about the draft of the Council's Recommendations to Improve the Nation's Workforce and Labor Market Information System to be finalized and approved during the meeting.

MR. RIETZKE thanked the attendees and offered introductory remarks. He noted that the primary purpose of the meeting was to approve the final draft of recommendations to the

Secretary of Labor. He requested that attendees participating via Adobe Connect type their names and organizations into the chat window and that members state their names when commenting, for record-keeping purposes.

MR. RIETZKE then requested final comments and approval of the minutes from the Council's meeting on January 11, 2018. The Council approved the minutes by roll-call vote.

MR. RIETZKE announced that **AARON FICHTNER** had resigned his position on the Council due to leaving his position with the State of New Jersey. **DR. REAMER** indicated that he had learned that **MR. FICHTNER** had accepted a position as president of the New Jersey Association of County Colleges.

Public Comments

Moving to the public comment period, **MR. RIETZKE** announced that he had not received any advanced requests to address the Council, but that he had received some written comments from **CHRISTINA PEÑA** of the Workforce Data Quality Campaign. He inquired whether any members of the public wished to address the Council. Hearing no requests, he summarized the written comments received from the WDQC.

In her first written comment, **MS. PEÑA** noted that, in the implementation section of Recommendation 2 ("Expand Information on Occupations, Skills, and Credentials"), item 4, the WIAC recommended that DOL take the lead in increasing the transparency of the value of credentials and the credibility of credentialing programs. **MS. PEÑA** set out WDQC's suggestion to include the Department of Education (ED) as an equal partner in DOL's implementation efforts, as ED has an interest in the quality of credentials and such a partnership would support the goals of complementarity and non-duplication.

MS. FORLAND stated that, because the recommendations were addressed to the Secretary of Labor, and they did not exclude participation with any other department, she was comfortable with the current phrasing and recommended leaving the recommendation as is.

MS. ZELLER, the chair of the recommending subcommittee, indicated that the subcommittee had considered ED's role in the credentials area and acknowledges the value of partnerships in this area. She indicated approval of adding phrasing such as, "coordination with other organizations, such as Department of Education, is recommended to ensure the best product."

MR. FERGUSON indicated that he supported leaving the recommendation as is, because the Council was clear throughout the document that it sought to be inclusive and promote partnerships wherever possible. As such, he did not consider it necessary to restate the Council's position at this point in the document.

Noting that staff could edit the document on the screen, **MR. RIETZKE** observed that the Council could vote to approve the amended version at this meeting. A number of members

voiced support for leaving the recommendations as is. **MS. FORLAND** noted the Council's agreement to make no changes.

MR. RIETZKE moved to **MS. PEÑA'S** second comment, in which she expressed WDQC's suggestion that, in the implementation section of Recommendation 7 ("Improve Consistency and Availability of Program Evaluation Data"), the WIAC include ED as a full partner in these efforts, and that the designation of the program evaluation agency be left up to the states, not the federal government.

MR. MADSEN agreed that the implementation recommendation, as phrased, sounded somewhat restrictive, and **MS. FORLAND** suggested changing "DOL program and legal staff" to "relevant federal programs and legal staff."

DR. REAMER reminded the Council that the revision adopted at the last meeting provided that a single agency be designated to *oversee* the provision of evaluations, allowing the services to be provided by various entities with a single lead agency. **MS. FORLAND** agreed that there was an intention to indicate one gatekeeper for the provision of the services. **DR. REAMER** proposed revising "provide" to "oversee the provision of." **MR. RIETZKE** took a roll-call vote, and all members present voted to approve both proposed revisions.

MS. FORLAND stated that she had received an inquiry about Recommendation 3 ("Develop and Disseminate a K-12 Career Awareness Educational Framework"), indicating concern that the recommended action might be duplicative of work done by the Career Information Services (CIS) Network, a network built and maintained by some states. **MS. FORLAND** emphasized that the Council did not want to duplicate or replace existing efforts and directed that the minutes reflect the Council's intention to provide a baseline framework available for use across the country as it might be helpful. She further reiterated the WIAC's general desire to ensure that programs and efforts be built off of existing efforts across the country. **MR. RIETZKE** concluded the public comment section of the meeting.

Recommendations to the Secretary

MR. RIETZKE asked whether there were any other items to consider before voting to approve the document. **MS. FORLAND** observed that there had been ample time to review the relatively minor revisions from the January 11, 2018, meeting and suggested moving to a vote to approve and adopt the document, absent any objections or concerns raised by the membership. **MR. RIETZKE** called for additional comments and, hearing none, took a roll-call vote to approve the final draft of the Recommendations to the Secretary. All members present voted to approve. **MR. HAUGHTON** noted that final Council adoption would require that **MS. PATE** email her vote to approve.

MR. RIETZKE outlined the plan for delivery to the Secretary. He indicated that ETA and BLS staff would create an internal memorandum conveying those organizations' reactions to the recommendations and their suggestions for DOL action in response to the recommendations. He stated that the Recommendation report would be sent with the

memorandum to the Secretary. After the Secretary's review, he continued, the document would be published as final recommendations. **MR. HAUGHTON** elaborated that the draft version, as amended at this meeting, would be posted to the website and remain until the Secretary had reviewed the final version, at which point, the final version would be posted.

DR. REAMER inquired as to the process through which the Secretary's office would communicate that the Secretary had reviewed the report. **MR. RIETZKE** explained that the BLS/ETA cover memorandum will have a response to, and suggestion as to how to address, each recommendation and expressed his expectation that the Secretary's office would respond when it had reviewed each suggestion.

DR. REAMER inquired whether anyone in the Secretary's office was specifically looking forward to receiving the document. **MR. RIETZKE** noted that the ETA and BLS leadership had been briefed on the status of the recommendations and that the final version was coming soon, but could not comment upon how and whether the Secretary's office was anticipating the report.

DR. REAMER asked about BLS's progress on the Contingent Worker Survey (CWS) data. **DR. HARRIGAN** responded that BLS was processing the data and that he had not been informed of any issues.

Council Membership Update

MR. RIETZKE offered an update on Council membership, noting that the only change since the January 11, 2018, meeting was the departure of **MR. FICHTNER**. He expressed cautious optimism that the membership solicitation would be issued soon and that the Council would have nominees by this summer.

Noting that there would be a NASWA meeting in February, **MR. MADSEN** inquired whether it might present an opportunity to raise awareness of the WIAC openings to any state administrators who might be interested in a membership position on the Council. **MR. RIETZKE** agreed that it would make sense to raise awareness of the openings, even if the solicitation were not yet published in the Federal Register. **MR. HAUGHTON** observed that, because the documentation requirements would likely remain the same, interested parties might look up the previous solicitation in the Federal Register, which could be linked to from the WIAC website.

New Business

Moving to New Business, **MS. FORLAND** reminded the members of the goal to have the next meeting coincident with the release of the CWS data, hopefully in the spring. She noted that the Council would also want to meet later in the year to discuss the status of the implementation of the recommendations and expressed hope that by late summer or early fall the recommendations would have been released and implementation initiated. If resources would not support an in-person meeting to coincide with the release of the CWS

data, she encouraged holding a virtual meeting to discuss and celebrate their release. **DR. HERRIGAN** indicated that BLS would be happy to brief the WIAC on the results, whether in a meeting or informally.

In response to **DR. REAMER'S** query, **MS. FORLAND** indicated that she did not anticipate any work for the subcommittees prior to the response from the Secretary's office.

MR. RIETZKE called for any other new business. **DR. REAMER** complimented **MS. FORLAND**, **MR. RIETZKE**, and **MR. HAUGHTON** on guiding the Council through this process and doing a remarkable job under challenging circumstances. **MR. RIETZKE** also extended thanks to the INS Group and Coffey Consulting for administrative support, and to all the WIAC members, observing that they had been both a pleasure to work with and very positive and passionate about making an impact with the recommendations.

MS. FORLAND again expressed her thanks and her pleasure with the recommendations and to be able to present them to the Secretary.

There being no further new business, **MR. RIETZKE** adjourned the meeting.