

Workforce Information Advisory Council

Summary of Virtual Meeting

May 11, 2022

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

The Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC) was convened for a virtual meeting at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. 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), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Council, convened the meeting. The entirety of the meeting was open to the public and concluded at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

In Attendance:

Members of the Workforce Information Advisory Council

Bruce Madson, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Chair)

Daryl Bassett, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Alicia Crouch, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Lesley Hirsch, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Dean Jones, Greenville County Workforce Development Board

Tamika Ledbetter, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Chelsea Mason – Placek, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Andrew Reamer, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University

David Schmidt, Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation

Fran Valentine, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Jennifer Zeller, Georgia Power

Members of the Council Not in Attendance

Deborah Carlson, Texas Workforce Commission

Adrienne Johnston, Florida Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research

Staff

Steve Rietzke, Chief, DNPTTA, ETA (DFO)

Julie Hatch, BLS

Don Haughton, ETA

Kirk Mueller, BLS

Lauren Fairley, ETA

Cynthia Forland, Forland Consulting

Pam Frugoli, ETA

Annette Summers, The GA Team

Danielle Kittrell, ETA

Betsy Roberts, The GA Team

Staff Not in Attendance

Ken Robertson, BLS

Members of the Public Offering Comments or Called Upon to Address the Council

Douglas Holmes, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers Compensation

Others Attending for All or a Portion of the Meeting

Lucas Arbulu, DOL

David Faro, National Restaurant Association

Tiffany Smith, DOL

Heather Stogner, Arkansas State University Beebe

Jason Todd, Independent Electrical Contractors

Sydney Washington, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Proceedings: May 11, 2022 12:00 PM ET

Welcome and Review of Agenda

MR. RIETZKE convened the meeting of the Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC). He informed the Council members and meeting attendees that due to being under the weather **Don Haughton, ETA**, would be taking over as DFO for the remainder of the meeting.

MR. HAUGHTON provided opening remarks on the agenda and outlined the goals for the final meeting in the series.

MR. HAUGHTON shared that the Council members will vote on the final recommendations at the meeting today. Prior to the vote, Council members will have a final opportunity to address any concerns or edits.

MR. HAUGHTON introduced Council Chair, **Bruce Madson**.

MR. MADSON greeted the Council members and expressed excitement to vote to approve the WIAC's third set of recommendations. **MR. MADSON** shared that he is looking forward to for the next phase of subcommittee work in the coming months.

MR. HAUGHTON turned over the platform to facilitator, Cynthia Forland, Forland Consulting.

Large Group Discussion: Final Subcommittee Recommendations and Vote to Approve

MS. FORLAND facilitated the large group discussion on the final recommendations. She outlined the changes that were made following the meeting on Thursday, April 21st. **MS. FORLAND** combined and formatted the recommendations into one cohesive document. She reviewed the new document with the Council members and discussed final changes to the recommendations.

In the conversations that followed, the Council members discussed and debated updates to the final recommendation draft.

The following final changes and additions were unanimously agreed upon by the Council members:

- Page 2, Summary of Recommendations, Data Sharing and Synchronization
 - Add, “Direct appropriate leadership, staff, and resources to.”
- Page 2, Summary of Recommendations, Workers and the Work
 - Add full language from recommendations 4, 5, and 6 to the summaries.
- Page 6, Recommendation 2
 - Remove “, and the fixed nature of the federal pay scale, which is often not competitive with market rates for these occupations.”
- Page 9, Appendix to Data Sharing and Synchronization Recommendations: Supplemental Information
 - H.R. 3133 was introduced in May 2021 to establish an NSDS. It has not moved since it was referred to committee. Add, “The Council does not take a position on this legislation.”

Prior to the vote to approve the recommendations, **MR. HAUGHTON** informed the Council that two members, **MS. CARLSON** and **MS. JOHNSTON**, were unable to attend the meeting. **MS. CARLSON** would abstain from voting due to rules set in place by the State of Texas and the agency in which she works. **MS. JOHNSTON** would email her vote on the recommendations to **MR. HAUGHTON** by Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

MR. HAUGHTON asked if the Council members had any last items to consider before voting to approve the recommendations. Hearing none, **MR. HAUGHTON** took roll call in the chat box to approve the final draft of the recommendations for submission to Secretary of Labor, Martin J. Walsh. All members who were present at the meeting voted to approve.

A copy of the recommendations approved by the WIAC are available at:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/wiac/meetings>.

Public Comment

MR. HAUGHTON opened the platform for the public attendees to ask questions and provide comments and feedback. One public attendee requested to address the Council. **MR. HAUGHTON** welcomed public attendee Douglas Holmes, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers Compensation.

MR. HOLMES directed his feedback on the Council-approved recommendations to ETA. He referenced recommendation 6 and the examples of barriers workers experience in the search for work. **MR. HOLMES** suggested that in addition to identifying the barriers, it would be helpful to outline programs and work that are

currently addressing these issues. **MR. HOLMES** provided the example of how Unemployment Insurance (UI) modernization grants are attempting to address some of the barriers.

MR. HAUGHTON thanked **MR. HOLMES** for his reactions to the Council-approved recommendations. He also requested that **MR. HOLMES** submit his comments in writing so that they can be part of the official record.

Large Group Discussion: Looking Ahead

MS. FORLAND congratulated the Council members on the approved recommendations. She facilitated the large group discussion on what lies ahead for the WIAC. **MS. FORLAND** reminded the Council members of the new subcommittee groups and topics they identified during the meeting on February 3, 2022.

The three, newly formed subcommittees are as follows:

Subcommittee One: Worker Experiences (mediating supply and demand), Skills (including open skills data-sharing, DOL hosted conference)

- Alicia Crouch
- Dean Jones
- Bruce Madson
- Chelsea Mason-Placek
- David Schmidt
- Jennifer Zeller

Subcommittee Two: Post-Pandemic Effects: Short- and Long-Term

- Daryl Bassett
- Lesley Hirsch
- Adrienne Johnston
- Tamika Ledbetter
- Fran Valentine

Subcommittee Three: Federal Competitiveness

- Andrew Reamer

MS. FORLAND explained the next steps and priorities for subcommittees one and two. The first subcommittee meetings will be held in June. The subcommittees will meet monthly and select a subcommittee chair during the first meeting.

MS. FORLAND encouraged the Council members to consider the following questions when identifying expectations on meeting content:

- Scope out specific areas to cover: what is included, what is not?
- What are the relevant gaps in workforce and labor market information?
- How do you want to explore those gaps and potential ways of addressing those gaps?

In the discussion that followed, the Council members and staff discussed the details and logistics for the next set of full WIAC meetings. Several Council members expressed an interest in the possibility of meeting in person in early December.

Closing and Next Steps

MR. HAUGHTON thanked the Council members for their attention and contributions throughout the recommendation process and congratulated them on finalizing their recommendations. He explained the next steps and the path forward for the approved recommendations.

MR. MADSON thanked the Council members and staff for another landmark meeting. He shared that he is looking forward to the new subcommittees and the next phase of work.

The meeting was adjourned.