

# Workforce Information Advisory Council

## Summary of Virtual Meeting

### October 27, 2022

### 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

The Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC) was convened for a virtual meeting at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 27, 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 day was open to the public and concluded at 3:00 PM on Thursday, October 27, 2022.

#### **In Attendance:**

#### **Members of the Workforce Information Advisory Council**

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

Alicia Crouch, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Lesley Hirsch, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Tamika Ledbetter, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Dean Jones, Greenville County Workforce Development Board

James MacKay, MacKay Construction Services

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

Jennifer Zeller, Georgia Power

#### **Members of the Council Not in Attendance**

Adrienne Johnston, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Deborah Carlson, Texas Workforce Commission

**Staff**

Steve Rietzke, Chief, DNPTTA, ETA (DFO)

Don Haughton, ETA

Lucas Arbulu, ETA

Lauren Fairley, ETA

Pam Frugoli, ETA

Danielle Kittrell, ETA

Julie Hatch, BLS

Kirk Mueller, BLS

Ken Robertson, BLS

Michael Wolf, BLS

Cynthia Forland, Forland Consulting

Annette Summers, The GA Team

Betsy Roberts, The GA Team

**Others Attending for All or a Portion of the Meeting**

Byron Archer, Ohio Department of Labor

Yufanyi Nshom, DOL ETA

Tiffany Smith, DOL ETA

**Subcommittees Reporting During this Meeting**

Subcommittee Two: Worker Experiences and Skills

David Schmidt (Chair)

Alicia Crouch

Dean Jones

Bruce Madson

Chelsea Mason-Placek

Jennifer Zeller

Subcommittee Three: Workforce and Labor Market Information (WLMI) and Federal Industrial Policy

Andrew Reamer (Chair)

**Proceedings: October 27, 2022 1:00 PM ET**

**Welcome and Review of Agenda**

**MR. RIETZKE** convened the meeting of the Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC). He provided opening remarks on the agenda for the day and thanked the Council members for their participation at the meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**MR. RIETZKE** explained that the goal for the meeting is to identify an approach to synthesize the subcommittees' draft recommendations in order to put them to a vote during the January 2023 in-person meeting. The Council will also briefly discuss the structure and goals of the January 2023 in-person meeting.

**MR. MADSON** agreed with the goals **MR. RIETZKE** detailed and he underscored the importance of developing a structure for the January meeting.

## WLMI and Federal Industrial Policy Subcommittee Discussion

**MS. FORLAND** facilitated the large group discussion in which the Council members provided reactions to **DR. REAMER**'s proposed WLMI and Federal Industrial Policy recommendation. She encouraged the Council members to take this opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

**DR. REAMER** reiterated an overview of his work and the resulting recommendation: The WIAC recommends that the Secretary of Labor encourage ETA and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to facilitate government-wide use of their WLMI resources in policies and programs aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of key U.S.-based industries in global markets.

In the conversation that followed, the Council members shared feedback and discussed potential enhancements to the recommendation.

The resulting ideas and potential enhancements are as follows:

- Include specific actions and identify key agencies like the U.S. Department of Education.
- Identify missing products that have workforce overlap.
- Recommendation is transferable to climate policy initiatives.
- Address transferability of skills and displacement of workers.
- Dashboard for multiple sector regularization.

## Worker Experience and Skills Subcommittee Presentation and Discussion

**David Schmidt**, Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation, spoke for the Worker Experience and Skills Subcommittee.

**MR. SCHMIDT** provided opening statements and introduced the members of the subcommittee. He outlined two overarching questions the subcommittee identified and aimed to answer. First, within the realm of workforce information, what could the Department of Labor do to address challenges with worker experiences in the labor market? Second, what role is there for the Department of Labor concerning job skills; to include training, credential recognition, and workforce system investment.

**MR. SCHMIDT** informed the meeting attendees of areas of overlap and common themes echoed in both his subcommittee's recommendation and the Post Pandemic Effects Subcommittee recommendation, such as: the critical need for labor force participation data; leveraging more administrative data in new ways to address emerging labor market issues; addressing diversity, discrimination, and barriers to employment; and the need for cross-agency partnerships and collaboration.

**MR. SCHMIDT** shared that the subcommittee recommends the following:

1. The Secretary of Labor should direct BLS to consider whether additional data about reasons for Labor Force nonparticipation can be compiled and published from existing data collected from the Current Population Survey (CPS).
2. The Secretary of Labor should explore opportunities to work with the Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of Commerce to compile labor force statistics for independent contractors, gig workers, and other nontraditional workers who are not captured in traditional measures of employment.

3. The Secretary of Labor should instruct the Bureau of Labor Statistics to explore ways of leveraging the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program to identify trends in remote work for common employers between states.
4. The Secretary of Labor should explore additional methods to gather labor market information that comes from the perspective of jobseekers, workers, and nonparticipants to better describe the challenges and barriers workers face in the labor market such as employment discrimination, the job search process, expected benefits, and reasons for rejecting or not pursuing work.

**MR. SCHMIDT** concluded by detailing a list additional ideas and discussion topics related to the skills focus area and the role of the federal government.

The additional ideas and discussion topics on skills are as follows:

- The availability of automated machine-learning to work with online ads and resumes.
- The gaps in these platforms: intensive vs. extensive data.
- The wealth of research available and those companies already engaged in the public policy space.
- Considering the limitations of what DOL may be able to accomplish. Not stifling innovation – complementing the efforts underway.

In the discussions that followed the subcommittee presentation, the Council members provided immediate thoughts, comments, and feedback.

**MS. FORLAND** encouraged the Council members to consider **MR. SCHMIDT**'s list of skills topic ideas for potential future pursuits of the WIAC.

## Public Comment and Other Business

**MR. RIETZKE** opened the platform for the public attendees to ask questions and provide comments and feedback. No public attendees requested to speak.

In lieu of public comment, **MR. RIETZKE** informed the Council members that ETA is considering comprehensive updates to the unemployment compensation (UC) confidentiality regulation as outlined in the public regulatory agenda. He shared that DOL is expecting to publish a request for information (RFI) regarding these comprehensive updates, in November.

**MR. RIETZKE** stated that while it isn't clear if the WIAC will have the opportunity to comment on the RFI, it may be of interest to the Council members as it intersects with the work of the WIAC. **MR. RIETZKE** is currently examining how the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) process intersects with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and will follow up with the interested Council members.

**MS. FORLAND** asked the Council members with a passion surrounding UC records to put their name in the chat box.

**MS. CROUCH**, **MS. HIRSCH**, and **MR. SCHMIDT** expressed interest in working on a response to the RFI, should the WIAC have the opportunity to comment.

The ETA public regulatory agenda posting is available at:

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=1205-AC11>

## Large Group Discussion: Looking Ahead

**MR. RIETZKE** and **MS. FORLAND** led the Council members through the exercise of discussing the strategy for moving forward and preparing for the January 2023 in-person meetings. The Council members and staff discussed the details and logistics for reviewing and editing the draft recommendations and the objectives for the three-day meeting in January. It was unanimously agreed that two new subcommittees would be formed.

The first subcommittee will work on the recommendations, to include: summarization and creation of a new cohesive document, gathering materials and references, reviewing the overlaps, prioritizing which recommendations to keep, and creation of a presentation for the January meeting. The second subcommittee will work directly with the steering committee to provide feedback on the agenda and ideas for content and speakers at the January meeting.

The newly formed subcommittees are as follows:

### Subcommittee One: WIAC Recommendation Subcommittee

Lesley Hirsch  
Tamika Ledbetter  
Bruce Madson  
Chelsea Mason-Placek  
David Schmidt  
Jennifer Zeller

### Subcommittee Two: January Planning Subcommittee

Bruce Madson  
Andrew Reamer  
David Schmidt

## Closing and Next Steps

**MR. RIETZKE** reiterated the next steps for the newly formed subcommittees. He thanked the Council members for their attention and collaboration and shared that he is looking forward to seeing everyone in person in January.

The meeting was adjourned.