

Workforce Information Advisory Council

Summary of Virtual Meeting

August 24, 2021

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM EDT

The Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC) was convened for a virtual meeting at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. 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 4:00 PM on Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

In Attendance:

Members of the Workforce Information Advisory Council

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

Thomas Anderson, Wellons Land Company and Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Daryl Bassett, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Deborah Carlson, Texas Workforce Commission

Alicia Crouch, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Lesley Hirsch, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Adrienne Johnston, Florida Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research

Dean Jones, Greenville County Workforce Development Board

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

Andrew Reamer, George Washington Institute of Public Policy

Jennifer Zeller, Georgia Power

Staff

Steve Rietzke, Chief, DNPTTA, ETA (DFO)

Ken Robertson, BLS

Don Haughton, ETA

Michael Wolf, BLS

Lauren Fairley, ETA

Cynthia Forland, Forland Consulting

Pam Frugoli, ETA

Annette Summers, The GA Team

Danielle Kittrell, ETA

Torrie Nickerson, The GA Team

Julie Hatch, BLS

Betsy Roberts, The GA Team

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

Annelies Goger, The Brookings Institution

Others Attending for All or a Portion of the Meeting

Leif Amundson, USDA Forest Service

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

Tamika Ledbetter, State of Alaska DOL

Fran Valentine, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Subcommittees Reporting During this Meeting

Subcommittee One: UI Wage Record Enhancement

Dean Jones (Chair)

Alicia Crouch

Jennifer Zeller

Subcommittee Two: Changing Nature of Work

Andrew Reamer (Chair)

Daryl Bassett

Adrienne Johnston

Bruce Madson

Subcommittee Three: Funding for State and Local WLMI Capacity

Chelsea Mason – Placek (Chair)

Thomas Anderson

Deborah Carlson

Lesley Hirsch

Proceedings: August 24, 2021 12:00 PM EDT

Welcome, Review of Agenda and Introduction to Breakouts

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 August 19th. **MR. RIETZKE** welcomed members of the public and asked them to introduce themselves in the chat box.

The Council members who were present at the meeting introduced themselves.

MR. RIETZKE explained that the goal for the meeting is to identify and clarify the areas in which the draft recommendations require enhancements.

MR. RIETZKE turned over the platform to former WIAC Chair, **Cynthia Forland, Forland Consulting**.

Large Group Discussion

MS. FORLAND facilitated the large group discussion in which the Council reviewed the draft introduction of the recommendations and potential areas of enhancement and clarification in the subcommittees' draft recommendations. She encouraged the Council members to take this opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

MS. FORLAND first reviewed the draft introduction. She discussed the areas of improvement expressed by the Council members during the previous meeting on August 19th and outlined the changes that were made to the introduction as a result.

DR. REAMER introduced a suggested revision to the draft introduction by providing a list of government-wide and Department of Labor (DOL) initiatives that would further support the subcommittees' recommendations.

MS. FORLAND asked the Council members to decide if the list of initiatives should be included in the introduction or added as an appendix to the recommendations.

The Council members unanimously agreed to include the list of government-wide and DOL initiatives as an appendix to the recommendations.

In the discussion that followed, the Council members considered areas of enhancement for each of the three recommendations before moving into subcommittee breakout groups.

MS. FORLAND explained that the goal of the breakout groups is for each subcommittee to further examine the items that have been identified during the large group discussion and to make edits to their draft recommendations. She encouraged the Council members to make note of topics and conversations that come up in their respective breakout groups that they may also want to incorporate into the introduction.

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions

The Council moved into breakout sessions. Pages 4 and 5 of these minutes outline the three subcommittee breakout groups and summarizes their discussion.

Public Comment

MR. RIETZKE opened the platform for the public attendees to ask questions and provide comments and feedback. He introduced public attendee, Annelies Goger, The Brookings Institution.

MS. GOGER expressed her pleasure with being able to attend the Council meeting and to hear the discussions. She stated that the intent behind her prepared remarks was to address high-level questions as they relate to unemployment insurance (UI) systems failures and how to make improvements over time.

MS. GOGER provided an overview on the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program report titled *Digital Transformation in Labor and Education Systems: Improving the government response to the next unemployment crisis*. She explained how they convened three roundtables with 19 local workforce board leaders, state data systems experts, national civic technology experts, and other subject matter experts on transforming labor and education data systems in the U.S.

The findings of the roundtable convenings are outlined below.

Key problems affecting labor and education data systems:

- Misaligned culture undermines the accessibility of programs and services for the end user.
- Procurement and data ownership challenges.
- Outdated policy and legal frameworks.
- Gaps in coverage.

The vision for digital transformation:

- Reduce the administrative burden on workers, employers, program staff, and other end users.
- Improve access to more frequent, more secure, and higher-quality data.
- Increase equity in access to labor and education programs and services by prioritizing the needs of populations that have historically been excluded from the safety net.
- Build a consistent national governance framework for data privacy and security.
- Create software solutions and data infrastructure that can easily be used across states and across programs.

Policy recommendations:

- National data standards and data sharing.
- Blueprint for improving systems.
- Coverage and improving the gaps.
- Security and fraud prevention.

MS. GOGER concluded her comments by encouraging the Council members to consider how these systems can be changed and improved over time and how government data can be migrated from an administrative static data system to a platform model much like the one proposed by the Jobs and Employment Data Exchange (JEDx).

MS. GOGER shared the website where the [*Digital Transformation in Labor and Education Systems*](#) report can be found and stated that she looks forward to seeing the final recommendations when they are published.

Large Group Discussion and Report Out

MS. FORLAND facilitated the large group discussion and report out. She called upon each subcommittee chair to share the conversations held during their breakout, the changes that were made to their recommendation, and additional steps that may be required before finalizing the recommendation for WIAC approval.

UI Wage Record Subcommittee Report

Jennifer Zeller, Georgia Power spoke for the UI Wage Record Subcommittee. **MS. ZELLER** stated that her breakout group discussed the potential addition of demographic data elements to the UI wage record enhancement. This would lend the ability to disaggregate other data to identify demographic groups in crisis. Additional areas that the subcommittee discussed and updated in the recommendation are: standardized data dictionaries, data sharing, and further explaining the T3 Innovation Network pilot program.

MS. ZELLER asked the Council members to provide feedback on the issue of adding demographic data as a core element for enhancing the UI wage record or if demographic data should only be referenced in the recommendation as a potential future enhancement.

The Council members unanimously agreed to include a statement in the recommendation that makes a suggestion to explore the possibility of including demographic data as an enhancement to the wage record, in the future.

Changing Nature of Work Subcommittee Report

Andrew Reamer, George Washington Institute of Public Policy spoke for the Changing Nature of Work Subcommittee. **DR. REAMER** explained that during the breakout, the subcommittee updated the recommended working group co-chairs from Chief Economist and the Workforce Development Counselor to Chief Innovation Officer and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy. He explained that they will also make updates to the introduction in order to better align with the overall introduction to the recommendations. Lastly, **DR. REAMER** shared that he would be updating the footnotes of the recommendation, regarding DOL and White House updates to reflect current events.

Funding for State/Local WLMI Subcommittee Report

Chelsea Mason-Placek, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO spoke for the Funding for State/Local WLMI Subcommittee. **MS. MASON-PLACEK** shared that her breakout group spent time reworking the introductory sentence of the recommendation to emphasize the link between data and economic health and overall well-being for workers.

MS. MASON-PLACEK shared that with the addition of a visual element to reflect resource requirement data within the recommendation, the subcommittee's final recommendation will be ready for final WIAC approval at the next meeting on August 31st.

In the discussion that followed the report out, **MS. FORLAND** outlined the changes that will be made to the overall introduction for the draft recommendations. She emphasized the importance of framing the introduction, as well as possible, to how the Council members envision it.

Closing and Next Steps

MR. RIETZKE thanked the Council members for their time and collaboration. He explained that the first objective for the next meeting on August 31st is to vote to approve the final subcommittee recommendations. Afterwards, the Council will have the opportunity to consider their path forward. **MR. RIETZKE** suggested that the Council members should think back to comments made by Chike Aguh, Chief Innovation Officer, Office of the Deputy Secretary and

Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary during the first meeting on August 19th.

The meeting was adjourned.