



**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2005**

Members:

Gary Barnes

Northwest Food Employers, Inc.
Business

Diane Boly

Boly/Welch Inc.
Management

Al Dorgan

United Steelworks of America
Labor

Faith Dubin

Serena Software
Public

Margaret Hallock

Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics
Public

Gwyn Harvey, Chair

Oregon Workforce Investment Board
Public

Sonja Henning

Tonkon Torp LLC
Public

Tim Nesbitt

Oregon AFL-CIO
Labor

Linda Rasmussen

Communications Workers of America
Labor

Patrick Smith

Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Co.
Labor

Lisa Trussell

Associated Oregon Industries
Business

Vacant

Management

Present

Diane Boly, Al Dorgan, Gwyn Harvey,
Sonja Henning, Linda Rasmussen (via telephone),
and Tim Nesbitt.

Not Present

Gary Barnes, Lisa Trussell, Faith Dubin,
Patrick Smith, Margaret Hallock

Employment Department Staff

Debbie Lincoln, Greg Hickman, Tom Byerley,
Tamara Brickman, Jim Booker, Renee Bryant &
Tammy Adkins

Old Business

The minutes from 1/20/05 were accepted.

Minutes

The minutes will be submitted via email,
prior to the next meeting of 3/17/05.

The meeting began at 10:07 am.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Gwyn Harvey – Welcomed all to the meeting and stressed the importance of member attendance. Gwyn urged all members to become familiar with the agenda topics and to come to meetings prepared during legislative session. In consideration of Sonja Henning, who is new to the Advisory Council, Gwyn called for introductions of all members.

* Greg Hickman will be leaving at 10:30 to give a presentation.

ADVISORY COUNCIL VACANCIES

Tamara Brickman: Welcomed **Sonja Henning** to the Employment Advisory Council and then asked Sonja to give a brief overview of her background. Sonja indicated that she is an attorney for the Tonkon Torp law firm in Portland where she specializes in labor & employment law. Sonja was also President of the Women’s National Basketball Association.

Tamara Brickman: Discussed current Advisory Council vacancies and announced that Bob Shiprack has been replaced by **Pat Smith** of Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades. Tamara indicated that all labor positions on the Advisory Council are now filled and that Gwyn Harvey will continue to serve until a replacement is found. One management position remains unfilled but Tamara urged members to let her know of any possible nominations for this position. In the meantime, Tamara will continue to speak with Nancy Goss-Duran at the Governor’s office for other executive appointments.

Tamara Brickman: Advisory Council by-laws were presented to each member in an effort to ascertain whether a quorum was required for voting purposes. It was discovered that a quorum was not required.

HELMETS TO HARDHATS & VETERANS SERVICES

Jim Booker: Discussed the Helmets to Hardhats program and provided a packet of information which includes website information and several hand outs. Jim discussed the points on why veterans make excellent employees and presented success stories in an effort to show that the system works. He also shared information on why veterans make a great asset to the trades industry. Although the Department of Labor funds the grant for this program, the Employment Department houses employees who are specifically trained to help vets in their job search. Some of the other services provided to vets include connecting them to training programs and other services through other agencies. Jim provided a contact list for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) representatives and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER). In addition, the Oregon Military Department has a number that employers can call for help with vets

who are returning to the workforce. Jim also provided a draft brochure that provides resources and outlines the advantages of hiring vets.

ACTION: It was agreed that the Employment Department should coordinate a job fair for returning vets.

Gwyn Harvey: Solicited comments or corrections with respect to accepting the minutes of 1/20/2005.

Tamara Brickman provided copies of statutes about public records, public meetings, attendance and Advisory Council by-laws.

MOTION: **Gwyn Harvey** - Called for comments and/or objections with respect to accepting the minutes of 1/20/2005.
Tim Nesbitt & Al Dorgan - Seconded the Motion.
Gwyn Harvey - Motion Carried. The minutes of 1/20/2005 were unanimously approved and accepted as is.

CHOICE POINT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tom Byerley - provided background history on Choice Point. In 1999, a law was passed that granted access to Employment Department wage records. Choice Point provides access to wage records and has mainly aimed at the mortgage market. The Attorney General provided a detailed contract to VIE (Choice Point's predecessor), but it was never signed because VIE went out of business. Choice Point then presented a different contract, but it was not considered based on the need to comply with the contract set forth by the Attorney General. There is some level of concern based on the fact that they never signed our contract and then had a recent breach of confidentiality. It is important to note that if access to wage records is allowed, we would then be required to conduct an audit to make sure they've purged their records once the information is no longer needed. As an additional precaution, we would then be required to audit every entity to which the information was provided to ensure they also have purged the confidential records. At this point, it is estimated that it would take about 6 full time staff to clean up these wage records. According to Paul Cosgrove (Lobbyist for Choice Point), Choice Point would now like to receive wage record information for employment background checks. This presents an additional concern as other companies may also want to provide this service.

ACTION: A conference call will be arranged for Advisory Council recommendations on this legislation when and if a bill comes out on this issue.

WIA UPDATE & PRESIDENT'S 2006 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Debbie Lincoln – advised that there are three activities coming out of Washington DC that we are watching:

- 1) HR 27 (Reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act).
- 2) President's 2006 Budget Proposal.
- 3) President's Job Training Reform Proposal (President's version of Jobs Plus).

All of the above proposals block-grant the Wagner-Peyser funds into other workforce related funds. Block-grants give Governors the opportunity to determine how those are going to be spent internally within the state. The House bill continues to push a formula that says 50% of that block grant goes to the locals, 50% stays with the Governor with a required 25% which must be spent locally on WIA type expenditures. Two-thirds of our support of the labor exchange business and employment services come from the Supplemental Employment Department Administrative Funds (SEDAF), but there seems to be a lot of support for stabilizing SEDAF and it continues to move through the House. Having a state-controlled fund protects us from the politics at the federal level, but there is still a concern that repealing the Wagner-Peyser Act will be one step closer to privatizing labor exchange and labor market information and having the public employment service just go away.

There is also concern about the possible reduction in funds as suggested in the President's 2006 budget proposal. Block-grants have historically been used as a means to reduce funding and the President's budget reduces the block-granted funds by approximately 5% from what the totals of the four funds are this year. The President's budget also reduces unemployment administration by about \$40 million dollars and a few of the other smaller programs as well.

Additionally, the veteran's appropriation is flat, however there will be an increase in the amount of new veterans that will be accessing the system as they start coming back.

HR 27 substantially amends the Wagner-Peyser Act and was passed out of committee. The Senate is expected to start working their version of WIA Reauthorization before recess for spring break.

Debbie Lincoln would like to know what position the AFL-CIO is going to take on this issue.

ACTION: Tamara will do a summary of what is in HR 27 and email to Advisory Council members.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tamara Brickman – provided a status of Employment Department bills and where they are in the legislative process:

Employment Department Sponsored Bills:

HB 2124 SUTA Dumping – scheduled for Business Labor & Consumer Affairs Committee hearing and possible work session on 2/28/2005.

HB 2125 Taxpaying Indian Tribes – passed out of House General Government Committee with a “do-pass” recommendation and subsequent referral to revenue.

HB 2126 Allows Employment Department to combine Overpayment Decisions with Disqualification Decisions - scheduled for hearing Monday 2/28/2005.

HB 2127 Tax SEDAF proposal - scheduled for work session in House Revenue Committee 2/24/2005.

SB 35 Allows ED to issue warrants for judgments - passed out of the Senate on 2/8/2005 and has been referred to House Judiciary Committee.

SB 37 Successor Employers Tax Liability Transfers – proposed amendments to Senate Commerce Committee.

SB 93 – Repeals unconstitutional provision of law from our statutes, passed out of the Senate 2/8/2005 and is before the House Business Labor and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Tamara Brickman – Gave an overview of all “priority 2” bills that could have a potential affect on the Employment Department.

SB 397 - Denies unemployment insurance benefits for failing pre-employment drug testing. It is estimated that an additional 118 people would be denied benefits if this law passes. **Debbie Lincoln** would like to know if this is a bill that the Advisory Council wants to take action on. **Tim Nesbitt** stated that his organization will oppose this bill because they are bothered by the drug/alcohol activities taking place prior to taking the job and feels the policy should be applied after employment starts.

ACTION: SB 397 will be discussed at the meeting of 3/17/5. It is important that all Advisory Council members be present so that a determination can be made as to whether to take action on SB 397.

* Renee Bryant, Tax Section Manager arrives.

* Linda Rasmussen hangs up at 11:27 AM.

Jobs Plus Legislation:

Tamara Brickman – announced that John Courtney and Marc Kane (Hire Calling) drafted a House bill but we don’t have any information on the amount of money. They want an 8 year program with a 13 week work experience for \$5.00/hour wage subsidy to employers who hire Jobs Plus participants. This bill would require us to place claimants within 8-10 weeks of filing a claim.

ACTION: Tamara Brickman will email the Jobs Plus information to Advisory Council members.

CLOSING BUSINESS

Tamara Brickman – asked the Advisory Council if they wanted to invite John Courtney to speak at next meeting. It was decided that it would be worthwhile to listen to what he has to say.

* Diane Boly leaves at 11:42AM.

NEXT MEETING – (3/17 @ 9AM, - 12:00)

- **Jobs Plus (John Courtney)**
- **SB 397 (Tom Byerley)**
- **Legislative Update (Tamara Brickman)**
- **Washington DC Update (Debbie & Gwyn)**
- **Tax Rate Margins (Tracy Louden)**
- **Tax Section Tour (Renee Bryant)**

TAX SECTION TOUR

TAX SECTION TOUR – There were only two Advisory Council members available, so the tour was moved to 3/17/2005.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:47AM....