



**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2005**

Members:

Gary Barnes

Northwest Food Employers, Inc.
Management

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
Management

Vacant

Management

Present

Diane Boly, Al Dorgan, Faith Dubin,
Margaret Hallock, Tim Nesbitt,
Patrick Smith and Lisa Trussell.

Not Present

Gary Barnes, Gwyn Harvey, and
Linda Rasmussen.

Present Via Telephone

Sonja Henning.

Employment Department Staff

Debbie Lincoln, Greg Hickman,
Tamara Brickman, Graham Slater,
Tom Olsen, Tom Byerley
and Tammy Adkins.

Old Business

The minutes from 3/17/05 were accepted.

Minutes

The minutes will be submitted at the
next meeting on 5/18/05.

The meeting began at 10:05 am.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Debbie Lincoln – Welcomed all Advisory Council members to the meeting and asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting in Gwyn Harvey’s absence. It was agreed that Tim Nesbitt would chair the meeting until Margaret Hallock arrived.

MOTION: **Tim Nesbitt** - Called for comments and/or objections with respect to accepting the minutes of 3/17/2005.

SECOND: **Faith Dubin.**

MOTION CARRIED: The minutes of 3/17/2005 were unanimously approved.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS - SB 882

Graham Slater – Provided an explanation of the dash four amendments to SB 882. This bill would require the Employment Department to conduct a statewide and regional needs assessment for healthcare occupations to identify the following categories:

- a) Emerging occupations
- b) Occupations for which there is high demand
- c) Occupations for which there is a shortage of workers

Graham Slater – Presented three different workforce and economic research publications in an effort to show statistical information that is already being compiled by the Employment Department. It was also noted that the Employment Department maintains a public website (www.olmis.org) which provides research, statistical and labor information as well.

JOBS PLUS

Tamara Brickman – Gave an overview of HB 3462 (JOBS Plus) which allows a total \$106 million dollar diversion from UI Trust Fund over seven years. This bill would also change the eligibility criteria for the JOBS Plus program and would require the Employment Department to refer claimants who were making \$15 per hour or less and only those who are within the first eight (8) weeks of their claim. In essence, there are serious concerns surrounding the referral requirements because claimants could potentially be referred to the JOBS Plus program prior to finding out if they are even eligible for the program to begin with. This could result in an overpayment that has to be paid back and we don’t know how we would recoup that money since it would have already been paid to the employer as a wage subsidy.

Debbie Lincoln – Discussed the analysis and abbreviated fiscal impact on the tax schedules of HB 3462, should it pass (handout provided). As a base calculation, HB 3305 (UI benefits Extension) was included. It is anticipated that HB 2127 (tax reduction) will be passed out of the Senate next week and then be signed by the Governor. The basic impact of HB 3462 is that it bumps the tax schedule from Schedule III to Schedule IV in the 2007 calendar year. This means that the Employment Department will collect \$88.8 million more than it projects if the JOBS Plus bill passes. When Marc Kane (HIRE Calling) was here, they passed out a one-pager with assumptions and statements of fact. Tamara took their one-pager and responded to each point because we were very uncomfortable with their information and how they were representing certain data.

Margaret Hallock - takes position as chair at this point. *

EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT BUDGET UPDATE

Greg Hickman – The Employment Department has appeared in phases before the Joint Ways and Means committee. In February, the first phase provided Employment Department background information. In March and April, the second phase prioritized Employment Department programs. The lowest of our programs were rated 2.57, 2.14, and under 2. When they're looking at potential programs to cut, they are looking at the 4 or 5 as lowest priorities. A work session is the next step on our budget.

Greg discussed budget specific, including three packages for consideration:

- 1) Continue Child Care Division Tax Credit – Employment Department receives \$667,000 per year to improve child care quality and programs, increase payment to providers, and to assist families who pay up to 30% of their income to child care.
- 2) Permanent Positions - Make three (3) limited duration positions permanent for the fraud control fund and one IT specialist to help with programming. Our estimate is that we will save approximately \$2.6 million per biennium by making these positions permanent.
- 3) Limited Duration Positions – a request to establish (or authority to appoint) 25 limited duration positions which would allow us to work with other workforce agencies and their clients, DHS jobs program, food stamps, etc.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tamara Brickman – Provided a brief overview of legislative bills that had shown some type of recent activity (see handout). In addition, it was noted that a letter signed by Gwyn Harvey, on behalf of the Advisory Council, was sent in support of HB 2662. The UI Extension bill (HB 3305) passed and is due to be signed by the Governor on 4/21. Marc Kane (HIRE Calling) agreed to amend HB3307 so that people are not displaced

from jobs, but he still thinks that previously unfilled jobs should be filled with JOBS Plus participants and continues to pursue that avenue.

Reimbursements: Under current law, Advisory Council members are entitled to \$30 per day plus mileage reimbursement for each meeting but it is important to note that members will then get a W-2 at the end of each year as a reflection of the additional income. Travel Reimbursements forms were provided to Advisory Council members along with the meeting dates for 2005 (1/20/5, 2/24/5, 3/17/5, 4/21/5).

Parking Permits: Members were reminded that the Employment Department is without authority to pay for any parking tickets incurred and there was a brief discussion to clarify the correct parking meters/parking zones.

CHILD CARE DIVISION UPDATE

Tom Olsen – Provided an overview of HB 2951 (Oregon’s employer child care tax credits), HB 2999 (certified family home provider ratio), HB 3107 and SB 779 (Oregon Cares Program). Upcoming projects for the Child Care Division (CCD) were also discussed as follows:

Contribution Tax Credit Project: The \$500,000 of authorized child care tax credits sold out in two weeks at .75 cents on the dollar, which nets the Employment Department \$667,000 per year to the child care fund. CCD is then required to use this money to do a pilot project which simultaneously addresses parent cost, quality of child care and provider wages. Lane County Connections was the successful bidder for the first pilot so we are currently writing the contract and creating the program.

Quality Indicators: We’ve got a lot of child care providers but we don’t have any way to assess the quality of care they are providing, so CCD is funding a pilot in Multnomah County. This pilot will determine ways to make assessments based on structural issues, (pay, turnover ratio, valid complaints, and staff-to-child ratio). We will then include this information in a data base (Resource Referral Network) and ultimately be provided to the public upon request, allowing them to make their own decision as to which agency is better.

Economic Impact Study: CCD has applied and received approval for Wagner-Peyser (7b) funds which will be used to contract with OSU economists to look at child care’s economic structure with a specific look at what would happen if child care was not available, how child care dollars are actually re-spent within the economy and how that affects economic growth. The Governor is very interested in this issue and will keynote this study at a summit on the economics of child care in late summer or early fall. Part of the economic impact study will address the fact that child care providers are being paid substandard wages.

CCD completes quarterly LEADS (FBI) check prior to licensing child care workers. This system provides a multi-state criminal background check on each person in the criminal

history registry and covers both state and federal criminal activity. At this point, there are approximately 40,000 child care workers in this data base.

BEND UI CENTER UPDATE

Tom Byerley – Our Bend UI call center was scheduled to be phased in on July 1st, but we were actually able to phase in ahead of schedule as of April 21st. The wait times are around 35 seconds, so it is going really well. In fact, the wait times for all UI centers are under two minutes. All UI call centers have now been fully transitioned.

What's Next: In an effort to better address workload issues and the needs of limited English speaking callers, the next thing we'll be working on is networking all three call centers together. It was our original intent to network the three call centers by July, but this has all gone so well that it will be done in June.

Long range goals: All UI call centers will be linked to one phone number so that calls will go to the first available attendant, which will provide more efficient customer service. In September, we intend to go to a paperless imaging system will scan and route documents automatically from central office to UI centers.

In checking with claimants, it has been determined that we are approaching a 90% satisfaction level over the prior system, however, our next goal is to check employer satisfaction. Tom noted that this project started 6/10/2004; all three UI centers were up and running in 10 months, under budget and two months ahead of schedule.

CLOSING BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – (5/18 @ 10AM - 12:00)

- Update on JOBS Plus.
- Legislative Update (Tamara Brickman)
- Strategic Plan?
- WIA Update

The June Advisory Council meeting was rescheduled from 6/16 to **Thursday, 6/23/2005 @ 10:00am-12:00pm.**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:35 AM....