



Members:

Linda Rasmussen, Chair
*Communications Workers
of America*
Labor

Tom Chamberlain
Oregon AFL-CIO
Labor

Al Dorgan
*United Steelworkers
of America*
Labor

Faith Dubin
Serena Software
Public

Sonja Henning
Tonkon Torp LLC
Public

Kathy Nishimoto
Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Co.
Management

Tamara Russell
Miller Nash LLP
Management

Patrick Smith
*Lane, Coos, Curry,
Douglas Building Trades*
Labor

Mary J. Taylor
Freeman Marine
Management

Lisa Trussell
*Associated Oregon
Industries*
Management

Public
Vacant

Public
Vacant

*Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2007*

Present

Lita Colligan
Al Dorgan (via telephone)
Kathy Nishimoto
Linda Rasmussen
Tamara Russell
Lisa Trussell

Employment Department Staff

Tracy Loudon
Rebecca Nance
Graham Slater
Laurie Warner

Absent

Tom Chamberlain
Faith Dubin
Sonja Henning
Mary Taylor

Meeting Place

Oregon Employment Department, Central Office
875 Union Street NE, Rm 305
Salem, Oregon 97302

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Welcome and Introductions

Laurie Warner, OED Director

Laurie Warner announced that there are still two unfilled positions on the Council, both seats are “public”.

Laurie announced that Mary J. Taylor has been appointed to the Advisory Council as of February 15, 2007. Mary works for Freeman Marine in Gold Beach, she brings a thirty year background in Human Resources to the Council. She is from Port Orford and is a graduate of Oregon State University. She enjoys walking and writing and is a published author and columnist. Mary was unable to attend this meeting but we are hoping she will attend the March 15, 2007 meeting.

Election of New Advisory Council Chair

Laurie Warner, OED Director

Laurie Warner called for nominations for Chair of the OED Advisory Council. Lisa Trussell nominated Linda Rasmussen. The nomination was seconded by several in attendance. There are no other nominations. The Council unanimously elected Ms. Rasmussen.

Ms. Rasmussen accepted the position and took over the meeting by calling for the approval of the December minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

Legislative Priorities

Rebecca Nance, Legislative Coordinator

Rebecca Nance indicated that HB 2206, Skill Up, was up for hearing on February 14th and 16th before the House Committee on Workforce and Economic Development. Laurie Warner testified along with many others including Cam Preus-Braly, Commissioner of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and OED’s Graham Slater.

Laurie explained that House Bill 2206 addresses the need for skills needed in today’s marketplace. Ten million dollars has been targeted for training in high demand, high wage, high skill positions of the future. The training dollars will be distributed to local boards as they are in the position of assessing local need within their local communities.

There is not yet a Jobs Plus bill at this time so meaningful analysis cannot be completed until there is an actual bill. In the past, Jobs Plus proponents claimed on-the-job training and wage subsidy will be less costly to the UI trust fund over 26 weeks of a claim. There were no savings to the trust fund during the four years Jobs Plus was a pilot, in fact, it was expensive. A bill analysis will be shared with the Council once it is complete.

Lita Colligan stated that the Governor does not support this draft. Employers are having a hard time finding workers who can perform high skilled jobs without needed training. Oregon is in a different situation than when Jobs Plus was first proposed. The Governor does not want to see a lot of similar bills

on this issue as he prefers Skill Up which is broader and targets the lower end wage scale population. Skill Up is on the Governor's short list.

Rebecca reported that the OED legislation is going well and moving right along. She also said there are eleven or twelve "Drug & Alcohol" bills.

Trust Fund Rate Schedule Talk
Tracy Louden, OED Budget Manager

Tracy Louden told a colorful story about being a student working at his father's grocery store to drive home the way the Oregon UI Trust Fund Schedule works.

Tracy explained the nature of the self-balancing nature of the Oregon UI Trust Fund. In the 1970s the legislature made it self-balancing to avoid severe swings in employer tax rates.

In 2007 employers will pay less in taxes for the year because of the balancing process in place. Oregon has a work force that continues to grow steadily over time. The UI Trust Fund balance will also increase over time.

Tracy said that we evaluate legislation that may affect the trust fund and take possible legislative action into consideration as they consider diversions. We look at the potential impact to employers whenever there is a diversion may do to the trust fund. Changes usually equate to employers in the millions of dollars here. Projections cannot determine tax shifts as they are set once a year.

Cluster, Job Growth Occupations & Replacement Jobs
Graham Slater, OED Research Administrator

Graham Slater first discussed growth and replacement openings anticipated. Research has found that Oregon is not sending a positive message out to our youth and that the labor market has a huge need for skilled workers. Most high schools and community colleges focus on college prep and not skills training for the higher end jobs now needed in today's market. Manufacturing is projected to grow slowly in Oregon, which is a plus for the state. This allows the time needed to recruit and train a labor force that will be needed for these jobs.

The Employment Department needs to encourage placement staff and community colleges to be assertive in helping place people into areas of training and apprenticeships for tomorrow's jobs. Over the next ten years skilled labor will be a true need in our economy.

Lita recommended using the "Are You Ready" campaign to help with this promotion.

Next, Graham talked about economic "clusters" in Oregon. Clusters are areas of small economic development throughout the state. Clusters are not based on industries but on economic development and are judged on their affect in their respective communities. 16.8% of all jobs in Oregon are in clusters, which is very low as compared to other states. Pennsylvania, as example, has clusters of over 80% which strongly affect their economic growth. Clusters in Oregon have less impact on the state as a whole, but strongly affect the communities in which they reside. Defining clusters is a subject of great interest in the Capitol this session.

Drugs & Alcohol – What should be OED’s role:
Advisory Council Open Discussion

Graham Slater was asked to summarize the research that his division did as contract work for the Oregon Nurses Foundation. He reviewed the power point presentation with the Council. According to the research, only 13% of all businesses in the state have five (5) or six (6) components of those listed. Larger companies usually have policies and smaller ones commonly do not.

Given this survey, Rebecca asked the Council to consider what the role OED should play on the issue of drugs and alcohol. This is beyond the Employment Department and is a much larger societal issue. She reiterated Tom Byerley’s willingness to give presentations on the topic.

March Agenda
Open Forum

The Council made the following suggestions for topics at the March meeting:

1. Tom Ewing – to discuss training for ALJs for UI cases, specifically consistency in decisions
2. Tom Fuller – “Are you ready?” campaign explanation
3. Tom Byerley – Medical Marijuana discharges
- 4.

Chair Linda announced that the next Advisory Council Meeting will be held on the third (3rd) Thursday of March, March 15, 2007 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the Dave Pleasant Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm.