

Oregon Employment Department Advisory Council

Approved Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Clif Davis, Chair of the Council. Chair Clif welcomed all present.

Members Present:

Robin Bitrick

Clif Davis

Thomas Kelley

Bill Kluting

Staff to Council:

Melissa Leoni

Members Excused:

Barbara Byrd

Mary Taylor

Aniel Yates

Others Present:

Paul Hill, Administrator, Customer Access & Program Effectiveness

David Gerstenfeld, Assistant Director for Unemployment Insurance

Salvador Llerenas, OED Deputy Director

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Robin Bitrick to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2014 meeting. Motion seconded by Tom Kelley. No discussion. Minutes approved.

Election of Chair

Robin Bitrick made a motion to nominate Tom Kelley as Chair of the Council. Motion was seconded by Bill Kluting. There were no other nominations. Tom was unanimously elected Chair.

WorkSource Forums – Outcomes and Recommendations

Paul Hill gave an overview of the WorkSource Forums, which included eight sessions with employers and partners around the state. The sessions were facilitated and gathered feedback on the services most valued by employers, partners and providers. The facilitator, Pat Scruggs has prepared a full report, which will be provided when it is finalized. There will also be regional reports for local staff to use to start conversations about local services.

The Council discussed some of the consistent themes, including ways to increase awareness of services amongst job seekers and youth. Robin Bitrick commented that schools are relying on teachers to provide job or training mentoring rather than the workforce experts. The Council also discussed the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act where skills and training are more emphasized, and Oregon efforts to use sector strategies and investment in local economic needs in alignment with the colleges.

Paul Hill describes the next steps to be conversations at the state (policy and investments) and local (programs and service delivery) level. The Council discussed the alignment between Employment, the Oregon Workforce Investment Board, and local workforce boards. Tom Kelley asked about the time frame for the staff and resources to make these changes and Paul responded that with these major changes that it will take two biennia to get far enough to see a difference.

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2015 Legislative Concepts

Melissa Leoni and David Gerstenfeld gave an overview of the Department's five legislative concepts. Staff will provide an update to the Council as the concepts are approved for drafting and once draft language is available.

Agency Update

Deputy Director Llerenas gave an update on the following areas:

1. Unemployment Insurance (UI) LEAN. In the past the Department has added changes but has not revisited the process. The Department will use LEAN to help make changes and is looking at hiring the right vendor.
2. IT Reorganization. The Department is moving to having increased oversight of projects, organizing by functional areas, purchasing rather than building systems, and separating project management from IT. The Department is also starting to plan for modernization and is looking at how to improve services across the agency.
3. iMatchSkills. Deputy Director Llerenas gave an overview of the three phases of system changes, including the job seeker simplification and skill removal and streamline job listing creation by fall of 2014.
4. Budgeting. The Department is working on a zero-based budget for the programs, which is a different approach than required by the Department of Administrative Services. Staff are instead looking at how the budget should be structured to accomplish our work and be more transparent.

Role of Advisory Council in Workforce System

Melissa Leoni distributed a handout outlining the roles and characteristics of the OED Advisory Council and Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB). The handout also describe a proposal for how the two boards should work together to implement the statutory change enacted in 2014 that requires both to work together. Staff propose that:

- OWIB and Council share members, at least one business and one labor member, and collaborate on legislation and budget, as needed.
- OWIB will have primary oversight for the Business & Employment Services and Research divisions.
- Council will have primary oversight on UI programs and policies, including review and advice on legislation and rules and evaluation of program performance.

David Gerstenfeld reported that he would like to have more engagement with the business and labor communities, would like a group knowledgeable about the system, and how this proposal builds on the Council's previous conversation about functioning as a rulemaking review group. The Council discussed its new role and relationship and supported the proposal, including the shared membership. Robin Bitrick expressed interest in serving on both and supported the co-membership idea. The Council agreed to organize its September 9 meeting around this new role.

Good of the Order

Follow Up Items

1. Copy of final Forum Report.
2. Workforce funding and organizational diagram.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.