

Oregon Employment Department Advisory Council

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Tom Kelley, Chair of the Council. Chair Kelley welcomed all present.

Members Present:

Robin Bitrick (by phone)
Barbara Byrd
Clif Davis
Thomas Kelley
Bill Kluting
Mary Taylor
Lisa Nisenfeld, OED Director (by phone)

Staff to Council:

Melissa Leoni

Members Absent:

Aniel Yates

Others Present:

David Gerstenfeld, Assistant Director for Unemployment Insurance (UI)
Larry Niswender, OED Interim Chief Financial Officer
Isabel Joslen, Deputy Administrator UI Tax

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Clif Davis to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2014 meeting. Motion seconded by Bill Kluting. No discussion. Minutes approved.

Employment Department Budget Proposals

Larry Niswender gave an overview of the Employment Department's agency request budget (ARB). Mr. Niswender discussed the criteria for building the budget, described what the program areas are proposing to do, and described the agency initiatives and legislative concepts. Employment has proposed 10 policy option packages for new activities and five for proposed legislative concepts. Staff will return to the December meeting with an update on the agency's budget as contained in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Agency Update

Director Lisa Nisenfeld gave the council a report on the OED Strategic Plan, which is gathering the pieces of the agency's work and the work being done jointly with the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. Employment also needed a single document to explain where it is headed and to identify metrics. Director Nisenfeld explained that the goal is around improving services. She also explained that there was not time for extensive partner feedback on this plan, but it

relied heavily on the WorkSource Forums from the spring. Director Nisenfeld also reported that the plan is happening in the context of a broader discussion around a performance management system, not just for OED but the greater system.

Director Nisenfeld also updated the council on the status of the Oregon Employer Council (OEC), which has 24 chapters that have been staffed by local WorkSource office staff and one statewide coordinator. The OEC primarily sponsors training for HR professionals on state and federal rules. It also sponsors two annual conferences, with limited value to the agency but with significant staff costs of attendance, and has previously lobbied on behalf of the agency. Director Nisenfeld announced in May that the agency will stop providing staff as of June 30, 2015, but wants to find a way to continue support of the seminars.

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 in December.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Updates

David Gerstenfeld reported on the following:

Call Center Consolidation: The UI call center has been in three locations. The Bend location is owned by the agency. The Eugene and Milwaukie locations have been leased with the leases expiring in 2014. These two locations now will be consolidated into a single building in Beaverton by mid-November.

Work Share: The Governor has directed the agency to implement two changes to bring Oregon into federal conformity for its Work Share program. Staff will give a legislative update at the September legislative days.

UI Trust Fund: The Department's economist is doing the final number crunching and will release the results by mid-November. Staff will notify the Council of any change and may schedule a special call.

Supplemental Budget Requests: The agency has submitted requests to the Department of Labor to support efforts around re-employment, worker misclassification, and overpayments.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Discussion

David Gerstenfeld led a discussion with the Council on a policy input process, which would involve the Council and other interested parties in a group to look at UI policy issues and provide constructive feedback. The Council recommended coming back in March 2015 with a proposal for a group that is manageable and discussion about an outreach strategy.

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Mr. Gerstenfeld then outlined elements of a performance dashboard related for UI by reviewing existing Department of Labor measures. The Council agreed to have an annual program level review or summary of how Employment is doing with these measures. After discussion around possible measures, the council agreed that staff should develop a list for discussion at the December 2014 meeting.

Good of the Order

No items.

Follow Up Items

1. Policy Input Proposal – March 2015
2. Performance Measures Dashboard – December 2014

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.