



ARC Workgroup Meeting Highlights

Kalispell, Montana

August 22-24, 2006

-DRAFT-

Attendees:

Olaf Bjorkland (Employment and Training Administration)*via conference call

Vicki Boylston (South Carolina)

Larry Christison (Illinois)

Bob Cottrell (North Carolina – lead state)

Steve Duthie (Montana)

Sandi Fike (Wisconsin)

Imaura Harvey (Florida)

Kim Hughes (Nebraska)

Christopher Knight (Florida)

Barbara Ledvina (National Crosswalk Service Center)

Denise Lee (North Carolina)

John Pearce (Oregon)

Dana Placzek (Connecticut)

Steve Rosenow (National Crosswalk Service Center)

Marilyn Skalberg (Contractor)

Bill Stambaugh (North Carolina)

Rita Watson (Montana)

Gary Wilson (Iowa)

Membership Changes

Wyoming petitioned for membership in the ARC workgroup. They have been actively participating in workgroup activities for some time now. Motion was made and seconded to add them as a member. The group unanimously approved.

With Mike Blank's retirement from the state of Iowa and Jeff Nall's new position in the state of Iowa that precludes his ability to participate on the ARC workgroup, the workgroup welcomed Gary Wilson as the new state of Iowa representative. Kim Hughes was also welcomed as the new state of Nebraska representative.

New Name

As referred to in the recently released Workforce Information TEGL from ETA, the ALMIS Resource Center (ARC) will now be referred to as the Analyst Resource Center (ARC). The ALMIS Database will now be referred to as the Workforce Information Database while the ALMIS Employer Database will be referred to as the Employer Database. A Statement of Work proposal has been submitted to ETA for the period beginning July 1, 2006, with reference to the new name. The workgroup was asked

to reconsider the naming convention for the as of yet unreleased ALMIS Database Version 2.3.1, because of its name change to the Workforce Information Database.

Shifting Emphasis

The workgroup was asked to review the Workforce Information Database to determine the information already present that can be used for economic development purposes and also review any potential data elements that could be included for those purposes. During the review process members were asked to also take into consideration states' ability to populate these data elements.

URL Tables

The Structure Subcommittee was asked to revisit the issue of the URL tables, as there had been recent questions about the intended use of the URL tables.

Funding

The remaining payments under the existing Employer Database contract were discussed. The next payment for the Employer Database contract is due October 31, 2006.

The workgroup had requested and had received a "no-cost extension" through Jan 31, 2007, as monies for the period beginning July 1, 2006 had not yet been released.

For the upcoming year, the ARC will be using funding to do research for the next RFI and RFP for the Employer Database contract. The new contract would need to take effect at the expiration of the 2nd optional year of the current contract with perhaps some overlap. Funding would also be used to allow Iowa to monitor and support the existing master agreement. Funding would also be used for a national ARC seminar. The workgroup agreed to identify what resources would be necessary in order to do a limited additional piece for the ADAM system.

ETA Update

Olaf Bjorkland joined the meeting via conference call. Olaf confirmed that ETA had received the report for the period ending June 30, 2006 and the Statement of Work for the period beginning July 1, 2006 and gave an overview of current projects and workgroups being funded through ETA. Specifically, Olaf gave an overview of the WITS system and WIRED initiative. A discussion was held regarding the possibilities for expanding the Workforce Information Database for economic development.

The ADAM system was discussed. Currently it is in the hands of pilot states awaiting a sponsor and funding as WIC funding of the ADAM system has ended. It's usefulness as a tool for regional planning and cross-state analysis was emphasized.

National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) Update

Steve Rosenow with the NCSC reported:

- ❑ There is a new O*NET database. O*NET decreased the number of occupations and the codes are now much closer to the SOC code.
- ❑ NCSC has recently registered a new domain name for the ARC – www.workforceinfodb.org to replace the current www.almisdb.org.
- ❑ The NCSC continues to get requests for Education files (e.g. for Career Voyages).
- ❑ ACINet continues to add more to their system. They will have QCEW data down to the county level.
- ❑ Geocoding is about 85% complete on the Schools file and have added county FIPS.

ARC and Employer Database Survey Analysis

Marilyn Skalberg presented results from the 2006 ARC Survey of Workforce Information Database administrators and the 2006 Employer Database survey (as administered and analyzed by representatives from Iowa). The Structure and Education and Communication Subcommittees were asked to review the survey results closely and follow up on issues as needed. Discussion was held regarding requests for FEIN in the Employer Database and on the different methodologies and uses of the QCEW data and the Employer Database. The group decided to put together a document that outlines the purpose, scope, audience, and differences in collection/methodologies for each as a means of clarifying any confusion among users regarding the data sets.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy/Employer Database Subcommittee– Bob Cottrell reported that he would continue to work with ETA on funding issues for the coming year including the next payment for the Employer Database. He said that he would also notify Wyoming regarding their new membership status. Work would commence on the next RFI or RFP for a new Employer Database contract.

Education and Communication Subcommittee- Vicki Boylston reported that there were three basic areas of focus for the group this week: training, website and seminar.

Training continues to offer unique challenges in that every state brings a unique set of skills, experience level, and needs to the training. Potential ideas for enhancing training/capacity building are currently being examined.

The ARC website is undergoing a significant redesign. The subcommittee made a number of changes to the current prototype and a new site is planned to be available for workgroup approval at the next ARC meeting.

The ARC decided some time ago to alternate classroom training and the national seminar each year. Based upon popular demand from DBAs and regional offices, the workgroup, and other workforce professionals, along with the success and attendance of past ARC seminars, the subcommittee recommended and the

workgroup agreed that the ARC hold another seminar in 2007. The subcommittee identified several potential sites including San Antonio, Texas, Savannah, Georgia, Tampa, Florida, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Structure Subcommittee

Bill Stambaugh reported that the Structure Subcommittee had worked through their complete list of items to review and had defined a next version release schedule. October 31, 2006 is the target deadline for the release. The release will be under the name Workforce Information Database (formerly ALMIS Database) Version 2.4. Emphasis is that the name change is the only *major* change.

Minor changes in the next release will include: changes in field size, CIP code changed to 10 characters, and adding a suppression flag to the OESWage wage field. The next release will include tables for Job Vacancy, EEO, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators), Benefits Survey, and BED (Business Employment Dynamics). The ESAPPLIC table will be eliminated and replaced by two tables in order to eliminate the issue of too many primary keys. The type of data the two tables contain will remain the same as the content of the ESAPPLIC table. The Structure Subcommittee agreed to provide a "change document" (listing changes from Version 2.3 to Version 2.4).