



ARC Workgroup Meeting Highlights
Tampa, Florida
June 12 – 15, 2007
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Introduction

Bob Cottrell led the welcome and introductions of attendees.

Bob Cottrell reported that he had talked with ETA last week and the preliminary information was that ETA is planning to continue support of the Workforce Information Database, the Employer Database and the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) for the upcoming year. ARC's obligational authority expires June 30, 2007. Bob has requested a "no cost extension" to utilize funds we currently have to operate the Workgroup until the budget is finalized.

ARC Discussion Items

The workgroup discussed current and potential future goals including suggestions of developing enhanced analytical tools, the benefits of having another seminar – with an expanded audience of WIA and economic development professionals, offering one-on-one technical assistance to states to train and work with new DBAs, and expanding the WID to encompass other data sets.

The group considered putting a committee together to explore WID product enhancements including alternative operational approaches.

Roger Therrien mentioned the development of a white paper by the NASWA/LMI Committee that is intended to describe the LMI System. It was suggested that from a technical knowledge perspective that the ARC contribute to the white paper.

Bob Cottrell asked the workgroup to review the last meeting minutes and submit any changes. Minutes were approved.

New Logos

Prototype WID and ARC logos were developed and made available for group review and comment. The workgroup approved as shown. The WID logo was designed to be an identifier on systems that are using the WID.

ETA Update

Olaf Bjorkland of ETA joined the discussion via conference call. Olaf stated that ETA is planning to continue support of the Workforce Information Database, the Employer Database and the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) for the upcoming year. However, ARC's obligational authority to use funds expires June 30, 2007. Olaf stated that he would be looking into extending the funding authority of ARC through December 31, 2007, pending a new budget. Olaf provided an update on the status of and funding for ARC, NSCS, Employer Database, Workforce Information Grant, CareerInfoNet, Tollfree Helpline, Projections Managing Partnership, and AJB. Olaf also reported that the TEGL for Core Products has been processed by every office and would be released soon.

Bob followed Olaf's call with further review of ARC's budget numbers and obligations.

Workforce Information Council Update

Roger Therrien updated the workgroup on current issues being addressed by the Workforce Information Council, including: the WIRED initiative, WITS, CES estimates, OES program and the National Compensation Survey, BED, WIA reauthorization, and budget.

Subcommittee Updates

Policy Subcommittee

Dan Brown and Bob Cottrell gave a status update on the Employer Database. The ARC is getting ready to go into the 7th payment (October 2007 will be the start of the 2nd extension). The original contract was for three years with two one-year extensions. The RFP process for a new contract will be under a tight timeframe. Maine and Iowa have

served as "host states" for the Employer Database contract. Another state would be welcome to assume that role for the next contract. ARC is also interested in securing volunteers to serve on the RFP review committee. Interested states should contact Dan Brown (Iowa) for more information.

Education/Communication Subcommittee

Vicki Boylston updated the workgroup on the latest activities of the Education and Communication Subcommittee. The primary focus has been on the website redesign. The website is set to go live after the meeting. During the course of the meeting, the Education and Communication Subcommittee agreed upon:

- Classroom training in Raleigh, North Carolina either the week of October 1-5, 9-12, or 22-26; announcement will be made by July 2007.
- National seminar during the time period covering the end of March 2008 through first half of May 2008 in possibly Idaho, San Antonio or Austin, Portland, St Louis, or Tampa; announcement on the Seminar will be made no later than end of September. Potential topics and speakers were discussed in addition to inviting an expanded audience. The workgroup had a preliminary discussion to determine and refine the event purpose. It was recommended to send an email to LMI Directors to determine interest in expanding the audience from what it has been in the past.
- DBA survey this fall to provide input on seminar topics, Employer Database questions, database applications, and other topics as determined. Need to find out which tables states are populating and using.
- Annual progress report is available in draft while still fine tuning content. Plan to have out by the end of summer. Will be printing 25 copies but the report will be primarily available through the ARC website.
- Marilyn Skalberg and Barbara Ledvina (NCSC) presented the new ARC website. The workgroup felt that the site provided an enhanced look, improved usability, good organization, and was a positive step forward.

Structure Subcommittee

Structure Subcommittee will continue ongoing review of the WID data dictionary. The ARC has been releasing dot-point releases for some time. A version release requires a more intensive release process. The Structure Subcommittee will need to consider what new data items should be included in a future version release.

The subcommittee will be releasing WID Version 2.4 in July 2007. The subcommittee will send out an email announcement and make the release letter, annotated version, and regular version available for download from the ARC website.

Roger Therrien reported that the subcommittee had resolved questions raised regarding Version 2.4 and made a small number of changes during the course of the meeting.

The subcommittee also spent time considering additional content for the WID such as population demographics.

Members will be updating the Data Source Document.

The subcommittee also discussed the next version release and the general form of the database; addressing concerns regarding table sizes and that the WID does not currently adhere to strict normalized form. The subcommittee will be looking at alternative forms as a potential way to better meet data needs.

NCSC Update

Steve Rosenow updated the workgroup on recent NCSC activities.

Work has continued on school and education information addressing issues such as the lack of school-specific zip codes being contained in GIS software which limits the ability to geocode schools.

Steve is working with the Defense Manpower Data Center and the O*NET Center to improve the military to civilian crosswalk so that it accounts for military occupations which are now obsolete.

NCSC has also been working on prototype content for population demographics. Eventually the ARC could consider an additional database of Census characteristics similar in relationship as the O*NET database to the WID. The population demographic information is on the Nonstandard page at this point.

NCSC is also maintaining and has been implementing the technical development of the new ARC website.

Future Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for San Antonio or Austin during one of the first two weeks in November 2007.