



**ARC Workgroup Meeting Highlights  
Austin, Texas  
March 4 – 6, 2008  
-DRAFT-**

Changes at ETA were summarized, including organizational structure and the departure of Emily DeRocco, Mason Bishop and ARC's previous grant officer, Olaf Bjorkland. ARC's newly appointed ETA grant officer is Greg Wilson. [Greg Wilson subsequently joined the ARC Workgroup meeting via conference call later in the morning to provide an update on ETA activities and perspective.]

Regarding budget, the ARC was granted a 90-day no cost extension in November 2007 for the existing grant that had expired on June 30, 2007. The no cost extension was extended through 6 months on any carryover funds. Carryover funds were available since funding was not received until late into the year and the workgroup only had until June 2007 to spend. Due to the new grants management system at ETA there will be no further no cost extensions allotted as of March 2008. The new grant for the time period beginning June 2007 and received in December 2007 will go through October 31, 2008.

**ARC Discussion Items**

The Structure Subcommittee was charged with assessing whether a full version release to Workforce Information Database Version 3.0 would be necessary in the near future. The subcommittee was also asked to look at what direction the WID should take (e.g. new data – including economic development, tool sets, structure, decennial census 2010).

The Education and Communication Subcommittee was tasked with locating a site for the ARC 2008 national seminar. The seminar is a valuable activity for the ARC as it provides an opportunity to showcase workgroup services, products and recent activities with the workforce information community.

The Policy/Employer Database Subcommittee was charged with drafting an RFP for securing a new Employer Database contract.

The relevancy of interstate data sharing as it applies to Regional Economic Development makes the completion of the ADAM project paramount. North Carolina will be updating the ADAM technical documentation and its database platform. Because the project was started in 2002, some platforms have since become obsolete.

Texas petitioned for formal membership in the ARC Workgroup. ARC Chairperson, Bob Cottrell asked the group if there were any objections. Hearing no objections, Texas membership was approved.

A request had been made to release the documents associated with the WID in a format other than PDF. After discussions with the Structure Subcommittee chairperson, the decision was made to release the documents in Word format as well.

A request was made to release the source code on ADAM. The consensus was that states would be able to have the code, provided that they understood ARC would not be responsible for further support on the code. Release of ADAM, to requesting state agencies, is set to take place within a few months.

### **ETA National Update**

Greg Wilson (ETA National Office) joined the workgroup via conference call and updated them in regards to current issues and areas of focus at ETA.

Greg Wilson and the ARC workgroup discussed the key/fundamental role that the WID and ARC played in the workforce information system and the need to have that foundational role conveyed in context of the current system.

Details of the upcoming Employer Database RFP, including ETA representation were also discussed.

### **State Updates**

State representatives discussed the latest initiatives and issues in their respective states.

### **Workforce Information Council Update**

Roger Therrien (CT) joined the workgroup via conference call and updated the group on the latest WIC activities.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

#### **Policy Subcommittee Update**

States are highly encouraged to seek LMI Director representation on the ARC Workgroup. Currently, there is only one active LMI Director engaged in ARC Workgroup activities.

The past year has been spent working with ETA to secure funding and contract renewals.

Regarding core data elements, a few obsolete licensure tables were dropped. A statement will be included in the new workforce information grant.

Due to funding and scheduling issues there was a delay in the Employer Database RFP process but efforts are currently underway.

Discussion was held regarding updating BLS extracts for the WID database table structure. ARC will be contacting BLS program managers to discuss the possibility of updating the extracts.

Bob Cottrell asked the workgroup to consider the future direction of the ARC in terms of products and services offered (e.g. training, communication, database tools).

#### **Education/Communication Subcommittee Update**

The ARC was asked by Greg Wilson to build a “landing page” on our site from their Regional Economic Development website. The page (now in production at [www.workforceinfodb.org/21RegionalDevelopment.cfm](http://www.workforceinfodb.org/21RegionalDevelopment.cfm)) details how our tools and services can be used in the context of Regional Economic Development.

Vicki Boylston reported that the Education/Communication subcommittee has been working on the 2008 ARC Seminar. Site visits were held at Austin hotels. Time frame for the seminar is slated for late October 2008. Unfortunately, due to room rates that were in excess of Federal per diem, with unanimous workgroup agreement, the subcommittee recommended exploring opportunities in other more modestly priced and centrally located cities.

The Education and Training Subcommittee handed out goals and objectives developed for the upcoming ARC Seminar. They also gave a report on preliminary logistical plans for the seminar. The Subcommittee was granted unanimous approval from the ARC workgroup to proceed.

The workgroup discussed the new WID logo that was developed for entities to place on their respective web applications that identifies their product as being based on the WID. Information (and the logos) will be compiled and sent to states this spring.

### **Structure Subcommittee Update**

Since the last meeting, there has been a change and release to WID Version 2.4 along with a new logo/branding.

The Structure Subcommittee agenda included reviewing suggestions to the Employer Database structure, new benefits survey table, status on LED, and discussion of a number of concepts regarding the future direction of WID as well as more immediate issues for WID Version 3.0.

Dana Placzek reported that the Structure Subcommittee had also discussed the need for an ongoing policy document/official WID handbook that details policy for issuance, naming conventions, etc.

### **NCSC Update**

Steve Rosenow gave a report on the latest activities of the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC). They are working on the NCSC website ([www.xwalkcenter.org](http://www.xwalkcenter.org)) and moving to open source CMS.

The data source document for the WID is being revised. It was sent to the Structure Subcommittee and NCSC is about to publish in a wiki for others to contribute to. It should be available fairly soon.

NCSC has been more active in developing content for the prototype demographics tables. NCSC has developed content for two states and added the 2006 data from the American Community Survey.

In cooperation with ACINet, the NCSC will offer enhanced school files with county FIPS codes and the geocoding (latitude and longitude) recently added to the SCHOOLS table in the WID. Once this is complete, the NCSC will be able to offer state-specific education databases.

Since the last ARC meeting, the center has finalized licensing updates for 13 states and sent three updated databases to ACINet. The ACINet application makes use of a recent addition to the WID, a URL field for displaying licensing agencies web sites. In response to a request by ACINet, the NCSC tested over 1,300 links found in states' LICAUTH tables and updated nearly 400 of those for the ACINet licensing application. Those updates were furnished to state DBAs.

NCSC will be working on a Department of Defense crosswalk enhancement in partnership with Defense Manpower Data Center and the National O\*NET Center.

**Future Meeting**

One of the cities proposed for the ARC Seminar was St. Louis, Missouri. The group agreed to tentatively hold their next ARC Workgroup meeting in St. Louis in mid-June 2008.