

## **NOTES from the ALMIS Resource Center Meeting, May 2003**

*The ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium has recently changed its name to the ALMIS Resource Center. Following are highlights from the latest meeting.*

The ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium met in Portland, Oregon on May 6—8, 2003. The group spent half their time meeting within their designated subcommittees.

Regular subcommittees include:

- Structure,
- Policies, Procedures, and Core Elements, and
- Education and Communication.

On an as needed basis, other workgroups are formed to handle projects or issues (e.g. the Employer Database Contract).

Meeting Highlights:

Members gave updates on various consortia, policy councils, workgroups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), and the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) work activities.

A presentation on the work that has been done on the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) Project to date was given with a call for interested member states to participate in the XML Workgroup.

Iowa issued a notice of intent to award the ALMIS Employer Database contract to InfoUSA. Dun & Bradstreet had filed an appeal and the hearing was held late March. At this time legal proceedings are continuing and more information will be provided as available. Another extension to the existing ALMIS Employer Database contract with InfoUSA was negotiated with the State of Maine and the next update will be distributed in October 2003. This set of data can then be used until May 15, 2004.

The ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium conducted a survey of states in order to gauge interest and ability in attending an annual national ALMIS Database Educational Seminar. Based on survey results, there is a marked interest in attending such a seminar. It had been tentatively scheduled for Summer 2003, but due to simultaneously scheduled events it was rescheduled for early November 2003 at a site to be determined.

The Education and Communication Subcommittee gave a demonstration of their prototype website that is set for an August 1, 2003 release date.

The Structure Subcommittee tackled several issues including: exploring the possibility of combining the long term and short term projections tables, defining LED (Local Employment Dynamics) tables, reviewing the recommended table layout for the O\*NET 5.0 and LAYTITLE tables, reviewing suggested changes for the STFIRMS table, and refining the URL tables. The Subcommittee also made a recommendation to drop LICHIST from the list of core tables as listed in the Workforce Information Grant.

The ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium will be looking at processes with which to more efficiently track questions, issues, suggestions, and comments related to the database as well as communicate outcomes to interested parties.

The National Crosswalk Service Center gave an update of their recent activities and gave a demonstration of their prototype website.

While the ALMIS Database continues to be integral and vital part of the Workforce Information System's infrastructure, the ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium's activities have evolved since its inception to include a variety of information delivery initiatives. As part of a broader awareness and communication plan and in order to more accurately reflect the work that they do, the Consortium will be changing their name to the "ALMIS Resource Center".