



## **Meeting Summary**

Raleigh, North Carolina  
July 14 – 16, 2009

### **In Attendance:**

Dan Brown (IA)  
Bob Cottrell (NC), Chair  
Phil Ellsworth (WY)  
Kim Hughes (NE)  
Barbara Ledvina (NCSC)  
Denise Lee (NC)  
John Pearce (OR)  
Dana Placzek (CT)  
Marilyn Skalberg (Contractor)  
Bill Stambaugh (NC)  
Curt Theis (MN)  
Roger Therrien (CT) (by phone)  
Joe Torres (NV)  
Joe Ward (SC)  
Mike Wendell (NC)  
Sam Wright (ETA)  
Pat Young (NC)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Bob Cottrell welcomed everyone in attendance to the Analyst Resource Center meeting and noted that there were new individuals in attendance at the meeting. Introductions around the room were made.

### **Future Direction**

Bob Cottrell asked the group to consider and discuss several key questions in regards to defining ARC's future direction:

1. What are the key accomplishments of the ARC?
2. What would happen if the group didn't exist?
3. Are there things that can be done to enhance ARC's core value?
4. What do we do and what does it contribute to the workforce information system?

Bob asked state representatives in attendance to encourage their LMI directors to attend future ARC meetings. States can choose to send both a technical (DBA) and policy (LMI Director) representative. He added that it would be productive to get back to a more regular meeting schedule (3 times per year).

## **ETA Update**

Sam Wright provided an update on ETA (Employment and Training Administration) activities. He shared handouts of an ETA activity update presentation for a WIC meeting that was given by Jan Sten, Division Chief, Office of Workforce Investment, Division of Workforce System Support, ETA. Sam elaborated on the current focus of ETA activities, including creating jobs, re-employment, green jobs, projections, skills identification and skills projections.

**ACTION:** Sam asked the workgroup to develop and submit a one-page report by Monday, explaining the ARC and its resources supported within the context of current initiatives and areas of focus.

*FOLLOW UP: The report was developed and submitted within the timeframe requested.*

For development of the report, the group briefly discussed WID elements and application of the WID along with other initiatives as they relate to current workforce needs.

## **Captcha**

Discussion was held regarding the accessibility of “Captcha” on systems that are accessed by users with visual and/or hearing impairment. Bob Cottrell and Mike Wendell (North Carolina Employment Security Commission) demonstrated a proof of concept to address accessibility issues. The concept would be an alternative to Captcha to counter automated access risks to downloadable data.

**ACTION:** The workgroup was asked for their feedback and approval to present the concept to infoUSA.

*FOLLOW UP: The workgroup gave feedback and approved.*

## **State, Other Initiatives, Groups, and Council Updates**

Members briefly discussed various initiatives and possible points of consideration for data sets and opportunities related to the WID. Among those:

- A NASWA technical conference being planned for 2010; Bob Cottrell asked the workgroup if this might be a good opportunity to showcase the WID and its applications
- National Labor Exchange; Bob asked the workgroup to consider the statistical data feeds from that system for the WID.
- Mass Layoff Statistics information in terms of layoffs and plant closings and how we want to look at that today. It was suggested that we could also look at the data in “relative real time” (in that it gives more immediate insight into the available labor supply) from actual UI claims files that don’t necessarily fall under the definition of a MLS event.
- Longitudinal Tracking System (LTS) – North Carolina has been working on a pilot for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

- Minnesota has a new system that allows for tying regional and county data together. The WID makes that possible.
  - DISCUSSION: The group elaborated that the ability to make custom regions in data is critical and cross-state regions would be even better. Redeveloping the ADAM application in new technology was brought up for consideration.

#### **LMI Institute Update:**

Joe Ward gave an update on the activities of the LMI Institute. Missouri has assumed responsibility for the LMI Institute. C2ER will be the administrative entity. There will be an LMI Advisory Board and an avenue for communications to the LMI Institute through that body. Joe Ward will be on the LMI Board and will be the liaison between ARC and the LMI Institute.

#### **Workforce Information Council (WIC) Update:**

Roger Therrien joined the group via conference call and provided an update on the latest WIC activities and items of interest to the ARC. Discussion ensued regarding potential ARC activities being explored in the context of using WID as a foundation within Web 2.0 technologies and open source technologies and how that aligns with WIC's recent survey on web and information delivery technologies.

#### **Employer Database Update:**

Dan Brown updated the group on recent Employer Database news. There is a new contract. It had been originally been scheduled for an April 1, 2009 release but ended up being released on May 5, 2009. It had the same data that the previous contracts included. The new data is coming out 10/01/2009. July 15, 2009 is the target date for having state licenses signed. If you don't have your license agreement signed then you will not receive a release of data on 10/01/2009. There is a copy of the license and sublicense agreement and a document with highlights of the contract on the ARC website. The only item that is not currently out there is the *EMPDB* table. Changes associated with the new contract were discussed.

#### **National Crosswalk and Service Center Update**

Barbara Ledvina gave an update on recent activities of the National Crosswalk and Service Center (NCSC). The NCSC website has been put into a content management system. Barbara discussed the NCSC handout detailing activities relating to classifications and update plans, the CIP 2010 release, IPEDS data, and SOC update in 2010.

#### **DBA and Director Survey**

Marilyn Skalberg provided handouts of the previous DBA survey to the workgroup subcommittees. The handouts included both analyses and questions. She proposed changes for the upcoming survey and asked the subcommittees to review and make any changes, additions, or deletions. The target survey date was given as September 2009.

## **Structure Subcommittee Report**

### **Objectives for the week:**

- Finalize the Employer Database structure
- Identify what will be necessary for the next full version update

### **Structure Subcommittee Summary Report:**

Dana Placzek reported on the activities of the group over the course of the week. The release of WID 2.4.1 at the end of summer will have a green job indicator for occupations and industries. In the interim it was added to the Non-Standard Tables page on the ARC website.

Per suggestion, the group decided to add tables that would hold data on re-employment initiatives (e.g. jobs posted by state workforce agencies by ARRA stimulus monies).

The subcommittee finalized and approved the Employer Database table structure and gave to Dan Brown.

The subcommittee reviewed prior ARC/WID DBA survey questions and indicated those that the Structure subcommittee decided were relevant to ask again.

Other issues looked at by the Structure Subcommittee included: table structure changes to address SOC2010, projections tables and potential changes in next major release (intent is for major release to eliminate INDPRJ/OCCPRJ and only have IOMATRIX; INDPRJ/OCCPRJ would become non-standard tables), name changes for the next major release, expansion of length of fields and names, and discussion of which acronyms to allow and which to spell out. The subcommittee has temporarily tabled the discussion of what changes the actual structure of the WID should undergo in the next major release.

## **Policy Subcommittee Report**

### **Objectives for the week:**

- Primary focus is development of the one page document requested by ETA
- Identification of any new WID core tables and/or deletions.

### **Consideration of Future ARC Activities:**

The group identified various opportunities and initiatives that the ARC may want to become more involved with, re-visit or explore further, including the ADAM project (from the perspective of “web services toolkit”) and green job identification.

**ACTION:** John Pearce agreed to develop a mobile application to pull data sets from the WID.

*FOLLOW UP:* John Pearce developed the application and delivered to the group.

## **Education and Communication Subcommittee Report**

### **Objectives for the week:**

- Select a new chairperson for the subcommittee
- Collect and draft new DBA survey
- Develop recommendation on one-page report for ETA

With the retirement of Vicki Boylston, the Education and Communication Subcommittee was left with a vacant chair position. The subcommittee unanimously approved Denise Lee as the subcommittee chair.

Denise Lee reported on several activities that the subcommittee was working on, including:

- In addition to the DBA survey, the subcommittee recommended, and the workgroup approved, conducting a short survey of LMI Directors.
- The LMI Directors would be meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, in November and we will be looking into what materials we could make available for their conference.
- C2ER will be having a conference in May 2010 and we will be exploring ideas for collaboration.
- Phil Ellsworth presented an idea for RSS code/widget “Powered by ARC/WID” as part of a “toolkit”. Also discussed was a subscribed and topic-specific subscription to RSS feeds as presented by John Pearce.
- The subcommittee is looking into having a future DBA training focusing on new data tables, Wiki, and data sources.
- Next year is when the next ARC Seminar is tentatively scheduled. The group will be analyzing the feasibility of having the seminar.

### **ARC Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Bob Cottrell thanked everyone for their participation and hard work throughout the week and the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will tentatively be held in October 2009 in a member state.