

Draft Summary Report of the First Quarter 2014 Advisory Group Meeting Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS)

Convened by conference call on March 25, 2014 (2:00 p.m. EDT), from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Karen A. Staha, Chief of the Division of Strategic Planning and Performance for ETA's Office of Policy Development and Research (OPDR), welcomed the WRIS and WRIS2 Advisory Group representatives to the First Quarter 2014 conference call meeting. She introduced participating ETA and ETLs members, as well as technical assistance contractors from Xerox and CDS², and briefly discussed the agenda items. In the interest of ensuring adequate time was maintained for discussion, Ms. Staha asked attendees to confirm their attendance through an e-mail to WRIS@dol.gov rather than calling a formal roll.

Ms. Staha reported that the Secretary of Labor, Thomas Perez, was participating in several briefings to present the Department of Labor's proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget request. She noted that Secretary Perez was highly knowledgeable and passionate about the national public workforce system and indicated that the Department's budget information was available to all stakeholders at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/budget/> and <http://www.dol.gov/sec/>.

On March 21, ETA's Heather Parker had discussed WRIS2 and WRIS during a Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) grantee meeting in Arlington, Virginia. The State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grantees had been convened by the U.S. Department of Education and WDQI grantees who were attending the meetings had expressed interest in learning more about WRIS and WRIS2. The discussion with WDQI grantee representatives included their suggestions for potential improvements to wage records and communications with interested educational institutions regarding the contributions that could be made from WRIS2 expanded data sharing initiative.

Ms. Staha also provided an update on guidance for the workforce representatives involved with performance negotiations for their state. As soon as the approved guidance is issued, the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) will be available on the ETA Web site at: http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=6943. Ms. Staha further indicated that the determination of eligible states for WIA Incentive Grants, based on WIA performance for PY 2012 as well as Adult Education performance outcomes, has been completed and the announcement will be made soon. ETA's Performance and Results Web site link is: <http://www.doleta.gov/performance/>

Adoption of the Fourth Quarter 2013 Summary Report

Ms. Staha reviewed the Fourth Quarter 2013 Draft Summary Report, which had been distributed previously to the Advisory Group Members for review. No comments or corrections had been received for the draft. A motion to approve the Draft Summary Report was made by John Glen

(OR) and seconded by Tom Meyer (SD). The Fourth Quarter 2013 Summary Report, as distributed, was adopted without objection.

WRIS2 Membership Report

John Glen (Oregon), WRIS2 Workgroup Chairman and Heather Parker (ETA), outlined the status of the voluntary, opt-in WRIS2 expanded data sharing initiative and provided a brief overview for newer representatives who might not be familiar with WRIS2. The WRIS2 initiative allows aggregate data to be shared with Third Party Entities (TPE), which are defined in the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement as any public body, agency, or private career school required by law to meet state and/or Federal performance measures. A PACIA, or its agent or consultant, cannot be designated as a TPE.

Currently, a total of 34 states and commonwealths have signed the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement. Mr. Glen closed by encouraging the Advisory Group representatives to visit ETA's WRIS2 Web site (http://www.doleta.gov/performance/wris_2.cfm) for key information such as the Agreement, participant map, and a list of designated WRIS2 member contacts. In closing, Ms. Parker invited states that are considering membership in WRIS to send any questions to her through WRIS@dol.gov.

Texas Discussion: "Moving Beyond Common Measures"

Ms. Parker introduced Adam Leonard, Director of Performance Analysis and Reporting at the Texas Workforce Commission and an Advisory Group member, who led a discussion on *Making Employer Connections: Moving Beyond Common Measures*. The PowerPoint for Mr. Leonard's presentation had been e-mailed to the Advisory Group in advance of the meeting, and his remarks focused on the Texas perspective regarding why the current Common Measures are a problem and what the Texas Workforce Commission is attempting to develop to replace them. In his presentation, Mr. Leonard outlined his viewpoint of effective performance measures and Common Measures, and noted that Texas was one of the earliest implementers of Common Measures in PY 2005. He indicated that Common Measure helped improve transparency within the workforce system and had removed a barrier to integration of services. Further, Mr. Leonard said that "it is time for the workforce system to consider alternative means of reporting performance through measures that are better aligned with both employer and job seeker goals and that allow the TWC to tell fully the story of its successes and identify opportunities for improvement." In closing, Ms. Parker invited Mr. Leonard to continue the discussion during the spring Town Hall and encouraged representatives with follow-on questions to submit them through WRIS@dol.gov or to contact Mr. Leonard directly.

WRIS and WRIS2 PACIA and SUIA Training Opportunities

Ms. Parker provided an overview of recent and upcoming WRIS training events. The annual *Confidentiality Compliance and Incident Response Review* training was conducted on January 30, 2014. The training will be presented again during August for staff members who were not able to participate in January. A spring WRIS and WRIS2 spring Town Hall is scheduled for late April 2014; and WRIS and WRIS2 PACIA and SUIA members were encouraged to submit agenda discussion topics through WRIS@dol.gov. Ms. Parker noted that a WRIS or WRIS2

Orientation could be offered to any state, for new or current staff members, by request to ETA. The most recent Orientations have been provided to Vermont, Puerto Rico and Maryland.

Quarterly Report: WRIS and WRIS2 Technical Operations

Due to time constraints for the meeting, Cynthia Binkley, Xerox, indicated the Quarterly Technical Reports for WRIS and WRIS2 would be provided to Advisory Group representatives by e-mail. Ms. Binkley invited follow-on questions through the Xerox's WRIS technical support address (wris.support@xerox.com) or through WRIS@dol.gov.

Additional Business and Discussion

Ms. Staha invited additional discussion topics from the meeting participants and suggested Thursday, June 5, as the proposed date for the Second Quarter 2014 WRIS and WRIS2 Advisory Group meeting. Advisory Group representatives having conflicts within their states for the proposed June 5th date were asked let ETA know through WRIS@dol.gov.

Ms. Parker offered a brief update on FEDES and indicated that Ms. Staha was meeting with relevant parties the same afternoon as the Advisory Group meeting and would provide additional information as soon as possible.

Ms. Parker noted that the WRIS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) database continues to be developed and requested that representatives e-mail recurring issues or questions commonly encountered by staff members to: WRIS@dol.gov.

ETA adjourned the WRIS and WRIS2 First Quarter 2014 conference call meeting at 3:15 pm.