

Summary Report of the Third Quarter 2014 Advisory Group Meeting: Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS and WRIS2)

Convened by conference call on September 18, 2014 (2:00 p.m. EDT), from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Heather Parker, ETA Federal Program Officer for WRIS2, WRIS and CRIS in the Office of Policy Development and Research (OPDR), welcomed the WRIS and WRIS2 representatives to the Third Quarter 2014 conference call meeting. Ms. Parker introduced participating staff members from ETA and ETLIS (Employment Training and Legal Services), as well as from the technical assistance contractors Xerox and CDS², and briefly discussed the agenda topics. To ensure adequate time was available for discussion, Ms. Parker asked attendees to confirm their attendance through an e-mail to WRIS@dol.gov in place of calling a formal roll.

Ms. Parker introduced Karen Staha, Chief of OPDR's Division of Strategic Planning and Performance, who provided a brief update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), enacted in July, and noted there would be further discussion regarding WIOA during the meeting. Ms. Staha reported that the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 6-14 *Program Year (PY) 2013/Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Data Validation and Performance Reporting Requirements and Associated Timelines* was issued earlier in September and is available on ETA's Performance Web site at: <http://www.doleta.gov/performance/>. Ms. Staha also indicated that a TEGL addressing the Annual Report Narrative for PY 2013 was forthcoming and would be available through the same Web site. That TEGL will provide guidance to the states regarding the contents of the WIA Annual Report Narrative including strategies for serving veterans, acceptable approaches to fulfilling the customer satisfaction requirements and the procedures for submission of the report to ETA. She noted that an extension of the due date to mid-November 2014 was projected in order to provide states with an opportunity to address points in the guidance.

II. Adoption of the Second Quarter 2014 Summary Report

Ms. Staha briefly outlined the Draft Summary Report of the WRIS and WRIS2 Advisory Group Second Quarter meeting on June 5. The Draft Summary Report had been distributed previously to the Advisory Group representatives for review. Following a motion to approve by Eliza Arentz (Pennsylvania) and seconded by Nakita Hicks (North Carolina), the Advisory Group representatives adopted the Second Quarter 2014 Summary Report as distributed without objection.

III. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): Performance Accountability

Ms. Staha provided an overview of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including the related provisions for performance accountability, and then led a discussion among the Advisory Group representatives. She noted that the Department of Labor had established a Web site for WIOA resources that is available at: <http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>. ETA's Web site includes resource links to the WIOA legislation (Public Law No. 113-128), Training and Employment Notices (TENS), Training and Employment Guidance Letters (TEGLs), a WIOA Fact Sheet and Key Statutorily Required Implementation Dates as well as links to related sites at the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Relevant WIOA implementation guidance will also be available on the ETA Advisory Web site: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/>.

Ms. Staha reported that, during August and early September, ETA had hosted a series of ten Stakeholder Input and Engagement Webinars that included "Integrated Workforce Reporting and the ETP," "Strategic Program Alignment and Unified Planning," "Services to Individuals with Disabilities," and "Job-Driven Training for Adults and Dislocated Workers." Archived resource materials are available through ETA's WIOA Web site: <http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>; or, through: www.workforce3one.org. Ms. Staha noted that WIOA promotes program coordination and alignment of key employment, education, and training programs at the federal, state, regional and local levels and that Section 116 of the Act addresses Performance Accountability Systems.

Ms. Staha indicated that the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services must publish Notices of Proposed Rule-Making to implement WIOA by January 18, 2015 (180 days after enactment.) She noted that the Department actively encouraged questions and ideas on WIOA implementation and has established a dedicated e-mail address for stakeholder input: DOL.WIOA@dol.gov. In closing, Ms. Staha thanked the Advisory Group representatives for their positive contributions to the meeting's discussion of WIOA and indicated that implementation and performance accountability discussions would be continued through future Advisory Group meetings and Town Halls.

IV. WRIS2 Membership and Operations Status

John Glen (Oregon), WRIS2 Workgroup Chairman, and Heather Parker, ETA, welcomed Connecticut's Department of Labor as the newest member of WRIS2 and outlined the current operations of the opt-in WRIS2 expanded data sharing initiative. To date, the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement has been signed by a total of 36 members. The WRIS2 initiative allows a PACIA to share only aggregate data with designated partner Third Party Entities (TPE), which are defined in the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement. Advisory Group representatives were encouraged to visit the

ETA WRIS2 Web site for key information including the WRIS2 Data Sharing Agreement and a current membership map. The ETA site is available at: http://www.doleta.gov/performance/wris_2.cfm.

V. WRIS and WRIS2 PACIA and SUIA Training Opportunities

Ms. Parker provided an overview of recent and upcoming WRIS-WRIS2 training opportunities for SUIA, PACIA and IT staff members. The autumn 2014 Town Hall discussions will include a presentation on data validation and related issues by Denise Dombek from the ETA regional office in San Francisco. Advisory Group representatives were encouraged to submit additional discussion topics for the Town Hall through WRIS@dol.gov.

Ms. Parker noted that a WRIS or WRIS2 overview WebEx could be provided to any state for newly appointed, as well as experienced, staff members. At the request of the District of Columbia, a WRIS orientation had been presented to its staff in early June, and prior WebEx trainings had been requested for staff by Maine, Maryland, Puerto Rico, Wyoming, and Vermont.

VI. Quarterly Report: WRIS and WRIS2 Technical Operations

Ms. Parker introduced Cynthia Binkley, Customer Support Manager for Xerox, who discussed the WRIS and WRIS2 Quarterly Technical Operations Reviews that had been e-mailed to the Advisory Group representatives on September 12. Ms. Binkley outlined quarterly WRIS and WRIS2 traffic patterns, deadlines and availability for the October 2014 and January 2015 Distributed Database Index (DDBI), and related Clearinghouse processes. Ms. Binkley also discussed the recently completed, positive UI-ICON Security Assessment that applied FISMA/NIST, a subset of NIST SP 800-53, Rev. 4 controls and additional controls for FedRAMP-Appendix A. In closing, Ms. Binkley invited Advisory Group representatives to raise additional technical questions by e-mail through: WRIS.support@xerox.com or WRIS@dol.gov. Alternatively, staff members may receive WRIS or WRIS2 technical support through the telephone number: 800.327.9250 Option 2.

VII. Additional Business and Discussion

Ms. Staha invited the Advisory Group representatives to raise additional topics for discussion. She noted that a revised Data Sharing Agreement will be developed to incorporate provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and encouraged representatives who wished to participate in the drafting to send an e-mail through WRIS@dol.gov. Ms. Staha proposed December 4, 2014 for the Fourth Quarter WRIS and WRIS2 Advisory Group conference call meeting and asked members to let ETA know of state conflicts so that an alternate date convenient to the majority of representatives can be arranged.

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