

**Alaska Human Resource Investment Council
Business Meeting
March 30, 2001**

Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Chair Galvin asked guests to introduce themselves. Roll call was then taken.

Members present: Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, Commissioner Ed Flanagan, Jim Nordlund (Com. Perdue's designee), Lamar Cotton (Com. Sedwick's designee), Pete Galle (Mr. Brooks' designee), Fred Esposito, Kristen Forrester, Duane French, Alice Galvin, JoAnn Henderson, Kay Hoch, Linda Hulbert, Wendy Redman, Sarah Scanlan, Barbara Stallone, Tim Sunday, Colleen Ward, J. C. Wingfield

The Minutes from the December 2000 meeting were approved.

There was a change to the agenda. Bonnie Jo Savland could not attend the meeting, so she submitted the Alaska Native Coalition on Employment & Training (ANCET) report in writing.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sanders thanked his staff, Mike Shiffer and the Alaska Workforce Investment Office (AWIO) staff. The council received his written remarks and he touched on several issues:

- The fall WIA conference.
- He has asked Senator Stevens for a Vocational Education & Training Clearinghouse and professional development assistant to coordinate regional vocational-technical centers.
- A Memorandum of Agreement is being negotiated between AHRIC, the Departments of Education & Early Development (EED) and Labor and Workforce Development (DOL).
- He is developing the budget with Mr. Shiffer.
- Relocation of the AHRIC office is in the works.
- NAWB conference he attended in Washington, DC. Kay Hoch was elected president.
- Meeting with John Taber of the Governor's Washington office.
- Meeting with Senator Stevens' staff concerning the Blueprint, the Solicitation of Interest in vocational/technical regional training centers and AHRIC's role in evaluating the proposals.

Committee Reports

Tim Sunday, the Evaluation & Assessment Committee Chair, thanked Nina Brudie and Jeff Hadland for their exemplary work on the evaluation report and the executive summary. It was sent to the Legislature on February 5, and read across the House and Senate. Mr. Hadland explained that data is collected earlier because they are now using it for several different reports, including post-secondary education certification, WIA reporting, and a system for students to evaluation programs. The annual evaluation will remain the same. Ms. Galvin asked about the programs under SB 334 and which need to be included in the evaluation. Ms. Ward asked if the council would be receiving data earlier. The legislature asked for a full year after exit from training programs. Ms. Redman thanked Mr. Hadland and the Research & Analysis Section of DOL. Their work is absolutely essential to the University for tracking additional programs, tracking individual students, and the names and addresses of employers. Kristen Forrester asked if the secondary piece is tracked into post-secondary piece. Mr. Hadland said they're working on it. If they have social security numbers they can track them. They're hoping to expand inter-state and inter-institution, pursuing all those avenues to account for productive pursuits.

Barbara Stallone, Employment & Placement Committee Chair, said she just debriefed with the past chair of the committee. They have multiple tasks: the graying of the workforce, equipment needs, and job retention, all in context of the Blueprint.

Linda Hulbert, Policy & Planning Committee Chair, said that now that the Blueprint has been completed, we need to work with our partner agencies to commit to its principles and accept them as workforce goals. Workforce Investment System Marketing Plan will be used to promote the Blueprint. Colleen Ward will be presenting the Nominating Committee's report later today. Regulations are still in the Attorney General's Office and after a final review, will go to the regulations attorney for promulgation. The Executive Committee will review the marketing plan.

Workforce Investment Boards

Pete Galle reported on the activities of the Anchorage/Mat-Su Local Workforce Investment Board. They're continuing to work on the 5-year plan. They are matching student loan technology and training at the job centers. The Sutton and Mt. View satellite office has not incorporated yet. Their board meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month, meeting at different One-Stops. The LWIB sub-granted \$1.5 million HB-1 federal funds to Mat Su College to develop and deliver the high tech curriculum. They are engaged in that process now.

Mr. French pointed out that historically, Title I programs have done a deplorable job of serving people with disabilities. Just because we have vocational

rehabilitation in the One-Stops doesn't mean the Voc Rehab Division should pay for them to serve people with disabilities. Mr. Nordlund agreed – it is not the role of DVR to make One-Stops accessible. They should be anyhow. Cathy is the project

Deborah Craig reported on Balance of State Local Workforce Investment Board (BOSWIB) activities. There is a Memorandum of Understanding being prepared b/w them and ANCET. They've developed an On-the-Job Training (OJT) form for the Alaska Job Center Network (AJCN) website. They are in the process of hiring an AJCN coordinator to facilitate between the LWIBS, state agencies and One-Stops. Ms. Scanlan asked about their budget. She was told that there is \$6.5 million from three funding streams. They are meeting regularly with APICC and ASHNA.

Lt. Governor Ulmer thanked everyone involved in the One-Stops and offered her congratulations on the centers' accomplishments. She attended a Microsoft Conference and saw a presentation on One-Stops in Australia. They can find jobs on-line and also discover their eligibility for services. How far is Alaska from this, is it part of the vision? Ms. Craig replied that efforts are primarily focused on getting the MIS up and running. BOSWIB has been involved in hosting people from virtual One-Stops. The Tri-Cities in Washington has a great one. At this point, we're in the very preliminary stages. Mr. Shiffer noted that we do have an obligation to do this. USDOL hosted a meeting around this very issue last week. Lt. Governor offered her help and the help of the Technology Information Council (TIC). It's still frustrating that people, especially in the Bush, feel like they have to travel somewhere to get this help. Also, business people are confused about accessing these services. Ms. Redman said it's not just money – that's the least of the problems. A lot of it is entrenchment. It took five years just to get a common intake form.

Ms. Hulbert said the reports from LWIBS look very different. We should look at how things are being done at the community level, like electing team leaders. Ms. Craig said that the high level of participation of division directors and deputy commissioners, etc. has caused better coordination and effectiveness.

Election of Officers

The Policy and Planning Committee acting as the Nominating Committee proposed a slate of officers for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Nominated for Chair: Alice Galvin

Nominated for Vice-Chair: Linda Hulbert

Motion: Accept Nominating Committee recommendations and move unanimous consent (Kay Hoch/Fred Esposito) Passed unanimously.

Public Testimony

Ann Spohnholz, Executive Director, Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium: There are several business-learning consortia working with AHRIC. These consortia are often called upon to present at various workforce development meetings, both for education and for business. Working together has caused the various consortia to identify many common interests. Ann requested that AHRIC assist in organizing consortia teleconferences for information sharing. Jim Sanders agreed AHRIC could perform that convening role. There are policy issues about which the consortia are concerned and could provide assistance and support. In K-12 education, Career Pathways the consortia can raise awareness and the profile of those programs as funding declines. The consortia can provide support for funding for those programs and suggest some portion of workforce development funds be targeted for Career Pathways. New funds are needed for vocational and technical education and the consortia can support those requests. The consortia can advocate the implementation of the "Blueprint". The industry believes the "Blueprint" should be adhered to and programs made to comply with it. Industry should be a voice for promotion of the principles found in the "Blueprint".

Willard Dunham, member, AVTEC Advisory Board:

Suggested that the AHRIC should consider supporting SB 137 as it would provide stable funding for the delivery of many vocational and technical education programs.

Don Hoak, Ilisagvik College:

Ilisagvik supports the efforts of AHRIC and would like the opportunity for greater involvement. He suggested an expansion of the public comment period to a daylong teleconference opportunity for comments and discussion. He would like to see more rural and Alaska Native participation on the Local Workforce Investment Boards.

Brian McClean, Ilisagvik College:

Rural interests and concerns do not get represented on the WIBs with much of the membership being from Anchorage. The BOSWIB has no North Slope representation and the interests and needs of the area are overlooked. Representation should be expanded.

Sue Ross, Associate Coordinator, Senior Community Services Employment Program:

Reminded the AHRIC that seniors are an important part of the workforce and of workforce development efforts. They will have a new plan for their program, due June 1, 2001.

Representative Reggie Joule of Kotzebue advocated support for SB137 as this would be the only source of funds for the Kotzebue Technical Center that has been 'zeroed' out of the Senate operating budget. He suggested that aviation, particularly pilots, health care, and education should be the priorities to meet the needs of his region of the state.

End of Public Testimony.

STEP Plan

Mike Shiffer, Director, Alaska Workforce Investment Office

STEP Plan Accomplishments:

Improve allocation and timely distribution of STEP funds to local areas and their grantees

This year we issued Letters of Award that allowed the two local areas time to start their procurement process earlier and in turn awarded funds earlier.

We monitored the expenditure levels and for the first time had a competitive mid year allocation of STEP resources.

Develop an employer and customer satisfaction reporting system

This process has been contracted out to an objective independent entity. We expect to have reports available in September.

Target funds in local areas with skilled labor shortages

In our second round of grants we develop requirements that tied grant awards to existing job openings. In addition we provided an opportunity for career development by awarding programs that offered the best wage at placement, credentials and job opportunities with natural career paths.

Improve communication with grantees participants, vendors, business and funding groups

International Pathways has recently completed a marketing plan that addresses STEP concerns as well as broader Workforce Development Issues.

Current Priorities

- A. Update the STEP policies to reflect AHRIC planning and program changes.

- B. Develop a strategy to utilize customer feedback data to improve service delivery.

- C. Work with R&A to develop strategies to link training outcomes with services delivered.
- D. Upon approval by the AHRIC, implement the Communications plan.

Program Performance

- A. Percent reduction in UI claims 43%
- B. Percent Reduction in exhausted UI claims 64%
- C. Obtained employment in new Jobs 59%
- D. Training in a shortage occupation 53%
- E. Training as result of economic changes 26%
- F. Training in a related field

Technical Vocational Education Program

- A. TVEP is the Technical and Vocational Education Program established under SB289.
- B. The funding come from the Alaska Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund specifically designated for training.
- C. AHRIC to establish priorities as defined in SB289, currently in the Workforce Readiness and the Employment & Placement Committees. Regulations implementing SB289 are currently at the department of Law.
- D. AWIO will issue solicitations based upon the priorities established by the AHRIC.
- E. Timeline for issuance

Memorandum of Agreement

Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Education and Early Development transfer of responsibility for post-secondary Perkins programs.

Barbara Thompson, Assistant Director, Teaching and Learning Support, DEED: Barbara reviewed the history of Perkins programming, including the passage of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Carl Perkins funding. She recognized the completion of the Alaska Five-Year Unified Plan under WIA and the inclusion of the Perkins Plan in the Five-Year Plan. She acknowledged the completion of the "Blueprint" and its ties to education. And she pointed out the consolidation of efforts and programs brought about as a result of HB40.

The Department of Education and Early Development has identified the need to work more closely with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and with the AHRIC, particularly in those areas common concern such as technical and vocational education and Career Pathways.

The proposed MOA transfers program responsibility and funding for post-secondary Perkins from DEED to DOLWD. The agreement is for one year and may be modified based on the experience of the first year. The Alaska Workforce Investment Office will administer the MOA for DOLWD and AHRIC will be responsible for policy oversight and implementation.

The MOA was modified to include, "The Alaska Human Resource Investment Council (AHRIC), in collaboration with the Alaska Workforce Investment Office (AWIO), is responsible for the following items:"

The MOA was also modified to provide, "

- Foster the identification and dissemination of skills standards for use in Alaska and in Perkins III programs."

RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-01

A RESOLUTION ON A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ALASKA HUMAN RESOURCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL came before the AHRIC.

Linda Hulbert moved adoption of Resolution Number 01-01 as modified. Second Fred Esposito. Passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan was referred to the Executive Committee for further direction and action.

Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

Lamar Cotton, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Community and Economic Development deferred presentation of the REDI program until the next meeting.

Fall Meeting

The Fall AHRIC meeting should include a review of the workforce development aspects of the budgets of other state entities, i.e. University, AVTEC, Kotzebue Tech, DHS&S, DCED, etc.

Baldrige Training

The Balance of State Workforce Investment Board will offer Baldrige training in June (5-7). The AHRIC Executive Committee is invited to participate with the Executive Committees of the BOSWIB and the Anchorage/Mat-Su WIB.

Solicitation of Interest for Vocational and Technical Regional Training Centers on behalf of Senator Stevens

Jim Sanders explained that US Senator has requested the AHRIC issue a solicitation of interest for vocational and technical regional training centers. Stevens requests the AHRIC issue a solicitation, review and rank the received proposals and provide that information to him. Federal funding could be made available as a result. (It was pointed out that the Post Secondary Standards referenced in the Resolution have not yet been posted by the DEED, but are finalized.)

DRAFT RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-03

A RESOLUTION REGARDING VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE ALASKA HUMAN RESOURCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Resolution Number 01-03 came before the AHRIC.

Pete Galle moved adoption of Resolution Number 01-03, second Kay Hoch. Passed unanimously.

The Chair, Alice Galvin asked for an executive session of the AHRIC to discuss issues that effect the reputation of the Council and the finances of the AHRIC and workforce development programs.

The AHRIC went into executive session at 4:20PM.

The AHRIC reconvened at 5:20PM.

Pete Galle moved to adjourn, seconded by Kay Hoch. The meeting adjourned, with no objections.
