

**LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION AREA
REALIGNMENT CONSULTATION AGENDA
MAY 16, 2018**

***Ogle County Courthouse
106 South Fifth Street, Suite #300
Oregon, IL 61061***

SESSION I – Deb Waldrop led introductions and provided an overview of the session. John Barr presented on the Department of Labor findings. David Gallagher presented the data background information and data packs.

- I. Introduction / Overview
- II. Realignment Presentation
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Illinois' Approach to Regional Planning
 - c. US Department of Labor Finding
 - d. Data Factors
 - e. Service Delivery Impact
 - f. Fiscal Impact
- III. Regional Planning Data
 - a. County Demographics
 - b. Community Colleges
 - c. Labor Market Information
 - d. Other
- IV. Next Steps

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

- The Chairman requested further information on the responsibilities of the planning regions and what happens within an EDR.
 - The State team explained that planning regions are the basis for larger types of workforce projects that are based around economic sectors, building sector strategies, and models that are more proactive. Regional staff are responsible for working with communities and regional/local entities. Development goes back to 2002-2003. The rationale for creation is looking at workforce, demographics, population, geography, and industry. It is a way of organizing and coordinating activities.
- The local workforce staff had specific questions and concerns pertaining to the data used to support realignment. How old is the data? Is it possible for Ogle County to stay within the same LWIA as the Governor determines the areas? How does the data specifically not support the current make-up of EDRs?

- The State responded that the data was collected from 2009-2013 and is an on-going survey. The next set of data will be released in 2019. The data does not support a change to the EDRs. The state workforce plan is trying to align EDRs and LWIAs. This is a cornerstone of the plan based on methodology. Current data supports the existing regional development lines. The state will look at data again when new information is released and address any new trends.
- The State team explained that an extension had been requested to postpone the alignment for another year. The Department of Labor still needs to see that efforts are being taken to correct the finding and feedback is being requested from the effected counties. No specific deadline is in place at the moment but is left to the decision of DOL.
- There was a specific question as to whether the county could “stay where they are” and co-op with other LWIAs as needed.
 - The State team responded that the current realignment has been recommended to the Governor based on the WIOA requirements and the analysis of the data. Alternative approaches would be considered but must be supported by data.
- The Chairman expressed his concern about the realignment and how it would affect the relationships that have been built with other counties within their LWIA. He also noted his concern as Ogle County had to make a similar merger in years past and are still feeling the effects.

SESSION II – Deb Waldrop presented information on governance, service delivery and John Barr presented information on funding and fiscal impact and performance.

- I. Overview of the Technical Session
- II. Realignment Technical Presentation / Checklist
 - a. Local Elected Officials Agreement
 - b. WIOA Governance Documents
 - c. Fiscal Management
 - d. Service Delivery & System Requirements
 - e. Performance Management & Reporting
- III. Questions & Follow Up

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

- There was a specific question pertaining to the workforce office in Oregon and whether it would be closed and if the individuals would be moved to Belvidere.
 - The State team responded that this would be a local decision of the Chief Elected Officials and Local Workforce Board. The State team pointed out that most of the counties in LWIA 3 have a satellite or branch workforce office.

- There was a specific question regarding the roll of the Chief Elected Official in designation of the LWIA and regional areas.
 - The State team responded that the law states that the designation of LWIAs must be done in consultation with the CEO, it is unclear if it calls out EDRs but Illinois has taken that interpretation to lay the groundwork. The final decision does lie with the Governor. The CEO agreement should be very specific of expectations for all involved.

- There were several questions pertaining to the transition of services and technical assistance available for the realignment process.
 - The State team responded that all services and training commitments to the program participants would be honored and the state would work with an area if an amendment or waiver of the policy is required for a specific instance. Technical assistance from the state can also be provided in terms of training, data, funding, etc. Local staff need to be involved in the process and we understand this takes time and effort. Monetary support will be based on funding that is available and will be circumstantial.

- There was a specific question regarding Ogle County transferring from EDR 5 to EDR 6 and how much transition it would entail.
 - The State team responded that they could not speak to the specifics of that process at this time but it would still need to meet the criteria of labor market information, regional, and must be supported with data.

- The local workforce staff asked to see 5-10 points of how the change would be beneficial rather than not realigning.
 - The State team responded that they will provide a listing of the benefits of the Economic Development Regions and realignment in the updated *Frequently Asked Questions* document.

- There was a specific question regarding how this process would be affected if a new Governor were elected in November.
 - The Governor will be required to administer the WIOA program under the same federal regulations. If the State's request to align the realignment process with the 2020 regional planning process, additional time will be available at the State and local levels to complete the realignment process.