

**LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION AREA
CALHOUN COUNTY REALIGNMENT CONSULTATION
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018 - AGENDA**

***(Administrative Building)
Marvin Richter Building
301 S. County Road
Hardin, IL***

SESSION I – Deb Waldrop led introductions and provided an overview of the session. John Barr presented on the Department of Labor findings. Ron Payne 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 and local workforce staff expressed concerns regarding the local Jerseyville workforce office remaining open.
 - The main concern is on serving the customers – will they be lost in the Madison County shuffle?
 - Can we retain our seniority and a place in Jerseyville for our customers? Our local clients are our priority.
 - It was pointed out that LWIA 21 does not have a center here in Calhoun County but workforce staff come here when needed. It would be difficult for our clients to get to Madison County.
 - Will the services change if we move to Madison County?

- Our customers and students are not familiar with Madison County so services will change if we move the office. Working with counselors, the personal attention we fear would be lost if the office is moved.
- The State team responded that the location of the comprehensive, satellite, and other workforce centers need to be determined by the four county board chairmen (Bond, Madison, Calhoun, and Jersey) working with the local workforce board. It was pointed out that local workforce area 22 has a local presence in both Madison County in East Alton and in Bond County in Greenville.
- The local workforce staff (Jersey County Office) had specific questions about the continued operation of the Jerseyville Office and the impact on the staff, benefits and seniority
 - The State team responded that the operation of the comprehensive, satellite, and other workforce centers need to be determined by the four county board chairmen (Bond, Madison, Calhoun and Jersey) working with the local workforce board.
 - It was noted from the State team that the Jerseyville staff are most certainly a valuable asset for both Jersey and Calhoun Counties.
- There were several questions regarding the LWIA realignment process and why there has not been a response to the local workforce area's letter. It was pointed out that LWIA 22 supported this letter.
 - The State team explained that the purpose of this consultation meeting is to provide the local officials and administrators with all the information we have on this issue. The Illinois Workforce Board and State Partners developed a "consultation plan" that included notice and conversations with the state elected officials. The team expressed regret that it took so long to connect with the local stakeholder and administrators.
 - Although a formal response was not provided to the LWIA 21 letter, it was noted that several of the issues identified in the letter are addressed in the *Frequently Asked Questions* document that was included in the meeting packet.
- There was a specific question regarding the State's ability to change the Economic Development Region maps to conform to the current LWIA boundaries.
 - The State team explained that the State Workforce Board and the State agency partners have been reviewing the WIOA regional planning requirement for several years.
 - As the initial rules were developed for WIOA in 2015, the State examined the underlying data of the 10 economic development regions. It was determined that the data and method for determining the regions was sound.
 - A decision was made in 2015 to use the 10 Economic Development Regions as part of the Workforce and Education planning process
 - A decision was made in 2016 with the submission of the Regional and Local Planning guidelines to use the existing Economic Development regions.
 - It was pointed out that the WIOA rules require the state to identify a data-driven regional planning structure.

- It was pointed out that the statistical data appears to be focused on the current jobs related but we are serving people without jobs. Local officials questioned if regions could be changed.
 - The State team responded that it is possible for the regions to change; however, this would need to be based on the data. We are working to address the finding and if we just redraw the map, we will have to defend that. We would need data to support that decision. If you think there are other data we should look at please let us know and we are happy to look at that data.
 - Calhoun County is located in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area that ties the county into the Southwestern Economic Development Region. The commuting pattern data also support a strong connection to this region

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 were questions regarding how the realignment would impact local performance.
 - The State team indicated that they would be able to provide technical assistance with performance and outcome data. Performance is one of several issues that must be considered as a part of realignment.

- There were a number of questions about the next steps in the process – specifically what happens if the local elected officials do not approve the transition?
 - The State team indicated that this is the initial meeting in the process. It is the goal to obtain feedback and identify all possible data to be considered by the Governor as he makes the final WIOA designation decisions.

- There were questions regarding the input from Madison and Bond Counties regarding the realignment. The local workforce staff indicated an interest in attending any follow up meetings.
 - The State team explained that this stage of the process is focused on providing the information to the impacted counties. Working with Madison and Bond Counties will be the next phase of the project. The specific meeting logistics will need to be worked out moving forward.

- The LWIA 21 Administrator stated the local workforce board does not support the realignment and that he has been directed to write a letter or make calls every week to the Department of Labor regarding the realignment issue. It was pointed out that the State only has one person working the Economic Development Region and that no one has ever come to this area to provide services. Why do EDR's get preference over the LWIA's? If it has been working for 30 years why change it?
 - The State team responded that they were responsible for addressing the US Department of Labor monitoring finding and this is our response to the finding. The State is required to identify a compliant regional planning structure in the 2018 Unified State Plan. The US Department of Labor could withhold the approval of the State plan and impact state workforce funding. The State team reiterated that the goal of this process was to provide the data and information so your voice can be heard.
- The local administrators noted that the job center and training is just one part of the job center pie. We have a job board, we have people who come in to job search, apply for unemployment, and build resumes. It's not just coming in if you are in training. Many people use the job center to job search. Training is important and is key, but it is just one piece of the pie.
- There was an additional comment indicating concern that Calhoun County would not be treated fairly or represented well in Madison County.
- The Chairman thanked the presenters for the information and commented that we have a lot of homework to do including talking to their colleagues in Bond, Jersey and Macoupin counties.