

**LOCAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION AREA
JERSEY COUNTY REALIGNMENT CONSULTATION
MAY 21-22, 2018 - AGENDA**

***Jersey County Government Administration Building
200 North Lafayette Street
Jerseyville, IL 62052
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM***

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 stated that his understanding of process is that the realignment process started at the federal level and then moved down to state, and that this part of the process was to get feedback from local level. His main concern is to make sure that local area residents are served and that they can assist those who need training or jobs. If the process makes sense then he will be in favor.
- There was a specific question pertaining to the Southwest Economic Development Regional boundaries - when they were drawn compared to the WIOA Boundaries.
 - The State team responded that the EDR boundaries were established around 2003 and the LWIA boundaries have been in existence since at least JTPA.
- There were several questions and concerns regarding the realignment and whether the option to adjust the EDRs was considered, as it appears to be a less burdensome process.

- The State team responded that from a state planning standpoint, EDRs are the best way to organize. If we simply use the LWIA boundaries to comply with the WIOA requirement, then the Economic Development Regions would not be in alignment and the State would need to justify this with data. The data, primarily commuting patterns, does not support redrawing the Economic Development area boundaries.
 - It is recommended to the Governor’s office that realignment move forward as discussed, however, other realignment options would be considered based on data. Therefore, other options are possible, but data would need to be required to defend that decision.
 - The State team acknowledges the work that will be involved but wants to take an open and honest approach so that all those involved can work together and plan for the implementation appropriately.
- There was a specific question regarding the Findings that were issued by the US Department of Labor during the 2017 WIOA Assessment Review.
 - The State team explained that there was a Champaign county One-stop operator technical finding. DOL’s interpretation of the law related to RFP’s and funding ranges required a complete review of Illinois One-stop operator RFP’s. A full review was implemented and corrective action was conducted. Illinois is in a good position to demonstrate responsiveness to the federal realignment compliance findings. With a lot of moving parts, Illinois has taken a deliberate approach of rolling out its response. All additional feedback, impact, and data is important. If it supports alternatives, it will be considered. However, it must be related to the core data elements (as described in the presentation).
 - There was a specific question pertaining to the Jerseyville office remaining open and whether the state would support a signed agreement.
 - The State team responded that staff and resources from partners would assist with the process. Ultimately, it is a local issue. Decisions happen at a local level from the County Board Chairman, County Board, and Local Workforce Board. State staff indicated that they will support effective processes and practices and can provide technical assistance on formalized agreements, calling meetings, solving disagreements, and providing information as needed.
 - There were concerns regarding the “nuts & bolts” of the realignment process. Are staff “grandfathered” in? Do they keep seniority and benefits? Do customers keep their services and how do we ensure they do not get lost?
 - The State team responded that nothing precludes 21 and 22 from maintaining partnerships and working together, however, there will be implementation issues that will need to be addressed.
 - The impact would be limited to actual customers and staff, the categorization and regional organization would change, but the intent is to provide continuation of services and maintain effective processes. Examples are contractual relationships can be created – those processes are where the CEOs come in. They must negotiate the complex elements of the process. It is time intensive and complicated but possible. The process will be locally controlled so the answers to these questions are related to local decisions of the implementation process.

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 regarding the approved training programs within one LWIA not being approved within another.
 - The State team responded that the program(s) that are currently used by Jersey County customers would be grandfather in, perhaps by being placed on a state approved list. The State would look at individual employment plans, commitments, etc. and attempt to ensure the promises made to the customer would be honored. The approval of new training programs would follow the State Eligible Training Provider Policy that includes provisions to review and approve training programs that are located outside of the local workforce area.
- There were several questions pertaining to student services and how those will be affected by the realignment process.
 - The State team explained that all students receiving services and training will be able to fulfil those commitments. In some situations, case managers may change, but that is a local decision and the State will provide technical assistance and guidance as needed. The goal is to avoid affecting the person who is being served.
- There was a specific question regarding union agreements and whether those will be honored.
 - The State team explained that those issues will need to be negotiated locally and they will be available for technical assistance.
- There was a specific question pertaining to other states with similar findings and whether their process was being examined.
 - The State team responded that they are aware of other States with a similar regional planning finding. The State will continue to follow the directives of the US Department of Labor regarding the corrective action to this finding.
- There were several questions and discussion points regarding communication with DOL pertaining to the realignment process and what would be appropriate to share. Who do we contact? Who should contact them? The LWIA's also submitted letters to DCEO, what else would be appropriate to share with DCEO?

- The State responded that they have had that discussion with state and local elected officials that have indicated support for local program administrators. The purpose of this session is to gain local feedback and document it. There will be mechanisms to share information with DOL and the State.
- There was a specific question regarding the realignment process and whether other counties have already agreed.
 - The State team explained this is the second of six meetings with the impacted counties, and that the purpose of this meeting was to inform individuals about the process and gain feedback. The meeting was not called to resolve the issues or get firm agreements.
- There was a specific request that the State team share the data used to come to the conclusion of realignment. It would be helpful to view that at the local level. The data package is helpful but access to larger data would be helpful.
- Additional questions and comments submitted by the attendees following the meeting:
 - The optimum situation would be not to realign the counties and leave Calhoun & Jersey Counties in LWIA 21.
 - Will the Job Center in Jerseyville be kept at its current location with current staff?
 - Would current employees of the Job Center – Jerseyville – be grandfathered into the new LWIA and maintain seniority and benefits?
 - How will enrolled customers be moved from LWIA 21 to LWIA 22?
 - When will the realignment go into effect?