

# Occupational Forecast Conference

## Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021

**I. Call to order**

Chairman Bruce Busada called to order the regular meeting of the Occupational Forecast Conference at **9:37 am** on **May 26, 2021** at Louisiana Workforce Commission, Executive Conference Room 1001 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Meeting Room, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

➤ **WIC Director Jawanda J. Givens read a portion of the La R.S. 42:17.1 Certification**

**II. Roll call**

Jawanda J. Givens conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Quorum met:

Number in attendance:

Here	Not	Member	Here	Designee
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor John Bel Edwards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary Ava Cates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary Ava Cates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kaffia Arvie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIC Chairman Bruce Busada		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Camille Conaway		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Yu Hsing		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Louis Reine	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susie Schowen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Alvin Williams		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Patterson		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**III. Review and Approval of previous OFC Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2021**

**Options for voting:**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Susie Schowen

Abstentions: Yes  None

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Dr. Hsing

Opposition: Yes  None

Approved: Yes  No

Unanimous Vote – Motion passes

**IV. Comments-**

## **V. Brief Review of Occupational Forecasting Process**

- a. Mark Jones presents on QCEW. Data published by NAICS industry sector, parish, RMLA. Construction is extremely important in West Louisiana parishes. LNG is driving employment when plants are coming online.
- b. Karl Gleichman – Labor Market specialist, reports on comparison between employment in mining and logging sector and crude oil prices. When oil drops, it takes about 3-4 months before the workforce is reduced. When it increases, it takes longer, approximately 6-8 months. In April the price per barrel reached \$61.72. This is good for the employment sector. Most states have begun adding employment back as the price has increased. OK and WY suffered the largest percentage of losses since last April.
- c. Dr. Julian Hwang gives forecast process overview.
- d. Secretary Cates thanks the team working on this. It is often a real challenge. The BLS office is gravely underfunded. Having them on staff has helped us to do as robust of a survey as we did this time. There were 78 other economic development entities that they contacted. In addition to the survey, there was employer feedback that we factored in. The in depth analysis is remarkable.

## **VI. Review of Occupational Forecast:**

- a. Dr. Julian Hwang reports that we expect to see recovery from the pandemic. Each region is expected to see growth except for the Lake Charles area. He gives a breakdown by major industries in major areas. Many major occupations in the state are expected to see a nice recovery in the 4 and 5 star rating occupations.

### **Comments/Questions:**

- Ms. Camille Conaway asks what is the source of the information in the short term forecast for the most significant source of education and training? Is that federal? We see a lot of changes in market around what employers are requiring.
  - Ms. Kellie Taylor-White explains that USDOL and BLS updated their website that provides info on levels of training and education needed for these occupations.
- Chairman Busada praises the great job staff did on this. He also notes that some of these figures will change in the fall and we may be calling this group back together.
- Ms. Susie Schowen comments that it was a great presentation. She appreciates the willingness to come back to table as this evolves.

**Motion to receive the report:**

**Options for voting:**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Susie Schowen

Abstentions: Yes  None

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Camille Conaway

Opposition: Yes  None

Approved: Yes  No

Unanimous Vote – motion passes

VII. **Other Business: None**

VIII. **Public Comments: None**

**Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn by Susie Schowen, seconded by Camille Conaway. No objections.

Adjourned the meeting at 10:20am

Minutes submitted by: Kandice Doley/Kayotta Lewis

Minutes approved by: Quorum of OFC on March 30, 2022