

LED Steering Committee

Minutes of May 10, 2007 Conference Call

Present:

Members: Greg Weeks, Jeremy Wu, Bob Brown, John Dorrer, Henry Jackson

Guests: Dwayne Earn, Erika McEntarfer, Gary Yakimov

Agenda Items and Discussion

Making the Program National

1. Jeremy Wu stated that only six states remain as non-LEHD members. The program has verbal commitments from three of those states to join including Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota. The remaining three states that have not agreed to join include Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.
2. There was a sense among the group that Massachusetts was unlikely to join any time soon. There was group conversation about what challenges the remaining states see in joining the program, as it no longer appears there are that many different challenges.
3. A suggestion was made to contact the New Hampshire Workforce Board to help support the effort in New Hampshire. Mike Powers was mentioned as the person to contact at the Workforce Board.

Training

1. Greg Weeks stated that the plan to train regional analysts in Florida was going very well. The pilot of the training is scheduled for July 10th and 11th in Tallahassee, FL. That session will be attended by analysts from Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.
2. Greg suggested that once that training is delivered, it can be evaluated and then rolled out to other regions and states.
3. Gary Yakimov provided an overview of the On-the-Map Demonstration that occurred on the new Users Site earlier in the day. He stated that at least 70 people participated, and possibly more, as a number of registrants informed him that there would be room full of people observing the training on their end of the line. The session went very well, but technical difficulties ended the session about ten minutes early.

4. Some members expressed concern about having a third party host an LED Users Site. Greg Weeks suggested additional conversation occur off-line.

Committee Expansion

1. Jeremy Wu proposed a motion to expand the Steering Committee to include Colleen Flannery of the Census Bureau and Andrew Reamer of Brookings Institution.
2. John Dorrer seconded the motion, identifying both as great assets.
3. Greg Weeks expressed his support based on the assets they bring including Colleen's marketing expertise and Andrew's communications and organizing ability.
4. The motion to add Colleen Flannery and Andrew Reamer passed unanimously. Jeremy Wu stated the By-Laws will need to be modified accordingly, and that he will take the lead in doing so.
5. Jeremy Wu stated that New York is interested in attending the Steering Committee calls, but not as a member. Erika McIntyre stated that New York staff is eager and highly involved. Greg Weeks gave his okay to a New York representative attending the calls, but suggested that the decision should be revisited if too many states start asking to attend the calls.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

1. Jeremy Wu mentioned that LED staff will be giving two pre-conference workshops at Workforce Innovations in mid-July, OnTheMap and Hot Reports.
2. LED will also be presenting at the American Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in Sacramento, following on the heels of a recently published article about LED.
3. John Abowd and Jeremy Wu will be presenting at the Joint Statistical Meeting in Utah, focusing on the evaluation of synthetic data, including using synthetic methods for the group quarters data.
4. Census staff recently did a presentation of LED at the Region 1 Employment and Training Administration ("ETA") conference. The new Hot Reports were demonstrated and were well received. There is potential to do similar presentations at other regional ETA conferences including an upcoming event in Atlanta, GA. There does not appear to be a scheduled demonstration at the upcoming regional meeting in Chicago. The upcoming regional meeting in the State of Washington includes demonstrations of EMSI and WITS data systems.
5. Census will be conducting a Congressional Fair where staffers will be able to view and use various Census tools and applications including LED, Hot Reports, and others at various different booths at the fair. Census staff said they will customize the demonstration to specific congressional areas based on those interested (e.g. a

State of Washington congressional staff person can be shown their local data at the booth.)

6. John Carpenter presented OnTheMap at the C2ER meeting of economic development researchers in Denver in early June.

Program Review

1. Jeremy Wu stated the Capital Hill Fair was a success. He said several congressmen stopped by the booth as well as staff from the sub-committee chair. A live demonstration of LED was provided to about 100 to 150 congressional staffers, including the Chief of Staff for the House Census Sub-Committee.
2. John Dorrer asked if LED staff were in discussion with the Employment and Training Administration on the 2008 budget. Jeremy replied that they were, including extension of the mapping application to version 3, further development of Hot Reports, provision and use of Office of Personnel Management data (e.g. federal employment), a verbal agreement with the U.S. Postal Service.
3. Jeremy stated that current efforts were focused on three dimensions including adding states, adding data sources, and adding data elements.
4. John Dorrer discussed the eight state Fabricated Metal Consortium and the importance of LED data in their work.
5. Henry Jackson stated that there will not be a technical report, as George Putnam was unable to attend. Henry stated that if there was anything urgent, George would send something out via e-mail.
6. Henry stated that George is developing a workshop for the Region III Workforce Information Workshop for unemployment insurance programmatic emphasis. Everyone on the call expressed interest in seeing the materials for the workshop presentation, and Henry stated he would send it out to steering committee members.
7. Jeremy Wu stated the older worker reports were ready for distribution, starting with Iowa in mid-June and then the series of 30+ states would be released. These reports were done for those states in the program at the time the initiative to develop the reports started. Those that joined afterwards would not be part of the release.
8. Henry Jackson asked if states were involved in the editing of the older worker reports. John Dorrer suggested his staff had ample time to edit, and thought it was a great piece of work and a great partnership effort, and that the older worker issue is an important one that is not going away.
9. John Dorrer suggested that the ability to use LED data in analyzing sectors and clusters was an important evolution of the program, particularly the ability to group firms. Jeremy stated he would look into it but that there would be two likely issues,

including aggregation and filtering. Others expressed interest in being able to group at the firm level, not necessarily at the NAICS level.

Next Meeting

July 12 from 4:00 to 5:00 est.

Suggested agenda items:

- Research access, John Haltiwanger
- Steering Committee Planning Session in September 2007
- Joint visits to non-partner states
- Replacement for Karen/Pennsylvania
- Planning for 2008 State Training Workshop