

Minutes: November 9, 2006 LED Steering Committee Conference Call

Members Present: Jeremy Wu, Karen Leahy, John Dorrer, Cynthia Swain, George Putnam, Greg Weeks, Erika McEntarfer, Patti Becker, Becky Rust, Wande Reweta, Henry Jackson

Agenda items and discussion:

1. Analytic Consortia

- 1.1. Fabricated Metals - Eight states have joined the Study of Fabricated Metals consortium. Maine is leading this effort. John spoke with the CEO of the Maine Metal Products Association, a trade association, who was enthusiastic about the study. She will contact her counterparts in the eight states to ask that they join with LMI shops to work on this study. Those states are: Maine, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.
- 1.2. Disaster Assessment and Recovery – Illinois is heading this study with Missouri, Florida, and Idaho as members. NJ has expressed an interest but is not in On The Map yet, and the On The Map tool will be used. George will put a message on the listserv asking for more states, then have a conference call the week of Nov 13th. His goal is to have some results by the time of the State Workshop.
- 1.3. Marketing Brochure – This consortium is creating a marketing brochure template based on Hawaii's marketing piece. Francisco Corpuz, from Hawaii, sent Greg the files behind their brochure. Eight states have expressed interest in joining this group. The brochure has some analysis that will have to be modified, in order to automate.

2. Annual State Workshop 2007

Arrangements at the Madison Hotel did not work out for the dates of our workshop. The Brookings Institute has a ballroom that can accommodate 144 people, so can host the workshop on Feb 1st and 2nd, and can also host the marketing meeting on Jan 31st. Attendees can stay in one of the many hotels in the area. Rooms are being secured at the Juries Hotel, 2 blocks from Brookings.

The partner states need to help define the content of the workshop. Ideas for sessions that were discussed:

- 2.1. Opening remarks by the Census Bureau Director and BLS Commissioner
- 2.2. Review of past accomplishments and thoughts on the future by Jeremy
- 2.3. VIP panel of national level people on how they have used LED data and how they want to use it
- 2.4. Another idea is that people doing policy studies, academic research, or other work could join the VIP panel, changing it from national level to mixed level
- 2.5. Greg could describe the marketing planning meeting held in Sep, then segway into the three consortia developing products
- 2.6. ETA and WIRED regions using LED panel
- 2.7. Transportation organizations and BRAC panel

- 2.8. SIPP (Survey of Income and Program Participation) data – This is nondisclosable data that was turned into public use data through a synthetic methodology. SIPP data allows the government to evaluate the effectiveness of federal, state, and local programs. The data is not connected to the LED program but the cutting edge methodology is. It is the methodology used to create On The Map data.
- 2.9. LED goes national – How can we make ourselves indispensable?
- 2.10. Analyst and economist LED training

Cynthia will set up a conference call for Henry, Karen, Greg, Cynthia, Jeremy, Erika, and Patti. This group will continue to discuss workshop sessions and logistics.

3. What is the understanding on data use?

As reported in last month's minutes, the federal Office of Management and Budget is considering the use of LED data to measure performance and evaluate federal programs. They may want to use micro data. There should be rules to follow concerning micro data within the MOUs the Census Bureau has with each state. This month, Jeremy will review those MOUs.

4. Sep Marketing Plan Meeting Followup

The marketing plan discussion, started in Sep, will be continued on Jan 31st. Greg and Jeremy are in charge of the agenda for the 31st meeting. They will send ideas to the Steering Committee for comment.

5. LED Training

Next week, Greg's LED experts are training co-workers in their LMI shop, they will then move on to train local economists. Greg will send the curriculum to the Steering Committee. Analysts within Florida and North Carolina want to visit Washington or Illinois to be trained.

Analysts in other states also need training. Last March, the Steering Committee had the idea of approaching the LMI Institute to host a class. The Institute did not respond to our inquiries. Becky, Henry, and Greg volunteered to make up a training committee. They will talk about this issue during a conference call next week.

6. Steering Committee Membership

We need to have new steering committee members in place by the end of January, so they can attend meetings at the State Workshop. Becky reported that South Carolina, in her Southeast Region, is interested in serving. Cynthia reported that New Jersey is interested, from the New York/New Jersey Region. We also need some members to re-up, in order to have continuity. Karen said the Mid-Atlantic Region wanted her to serve until she leaves the workforce, in one year.

7. Technical Subcommittee

- 7.1. Lars has not been able to return to the Quality Assurance and Audit templates for our review.

- 7.2. On the listserv, Tim Smith asked about the level of quality assurance in the On The Map data. He found a large number of commutes over 200 miles one way. These commutes can be the result of firms reporting their Personnel Department address, or payroll company address, as the work address for employees working at a number of different sites. In addition, IL is working with the Center for Urban Transportation at the University of Illinois in Chicago to investigate an inordinate number of out-of-state commuters in the IL data. Indeed, the number reported in the Mapping data is 2 to 3 times higher than the number reported in the decennial census. IL will report the results of their investigation to the Steering Committee.

Other data problems are:

7.2.1 Getting accurate work addresses for government employees

7.2.2 Self employed people are not included in the QCEW so they are missing from On The Map

7.2.3 Some home addresses come from the IRS tax record address file

7.2.3.1 People may own two homes and claim one as a home address for tax purposes

7.2.3.2 Students may claim their out-of-state dormitory as their home address

8. Program Update

8.1 Alaska should be the 44th state to join LED. NY will hopefully be the 45th.

8.2 The Census Bureau wants to get away from using FedEx. It can take 1.5 weeks to get a FedEx package since the Census Bureau has moved offices. Jeremy may make delivering quarterly LED files on DVD an option for states, with downloading them the default.

8.3 An email concerning the new Older Worker template was emailed to all member states on 11/2. The Census Bureau asked states to sign up if they wanted this report.

9. Other

Jeremy will send Cynthia an updated version of Informational Document No. ID-2006-01, "How to encrypt data using PGP, and transfer using DVD or FTP to LEHD". Then Cynthia will send the LEDSC 06-08 email to all member states.

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