**Louisiana State Apprenticeship Council Meeting**

**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

**10:00 a.m.**

**4th Floor Auditorium – AO Building**

**MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Henry Heier (Chairman)

Andrew O’Brien

Nicholas Felton, Jr.

William Seaman (in place of Monty Sullivan [Ex-Officio])

Aldo Irias-Duron

**Members Absent:**

Woody Oge

Keith Brand

Claire Obgartel

Kelly Carpenter

Brent Moreland

**LWC Officials Present:**

Joseph Hollins (Council Secretary, Director of Apprenticeship)

*A quorum was present*

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SAC MEETING**

Mr. Henry Heier, Chairman, asked if everyone has reviewed the minutes from the previous State Apprenticeship Council meeting, which occurred on September, 26 2017. Mr. Andrew O’Brien made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Nicholas Felton seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

**DACA REPORT**

Heier informed the room that a conference call with the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) has been made for an update and guidance concerning the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. The USDOL representatives indicated that there is currently no clear direction with three different possible pathways. They recommended that everyone exercise patience while everything remains uncertain. The Office of Apprenticeship (OA) should be contacted if any issues occur with apprentices.

**STATE APPRENTICESHIP UPDATES**

**APPRENTICESHIPLOUISIANA WEBSITE**

Mr. Joseph Hollins, Council Secretary and Director of Apprenticeship, stated that the ApprenticeshipLouisiana website is currently in the final stages of development. Testimonials from apprentices and employers were on the list of the last information needed. Hollins offered to everyone present that if they would like to contribute a testimonial that it would be greatly appreciated. Hollins noted that the website will be sent out for comments before it goes live.

**NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK**

Hollins announced plans and goes for the upcoming National Apprenticeship Week (November 13-17). He stated that the Apprenticeship Division would like to get another proclamation from the governor.

November 13 was confirmed with Mr. Ellis Bourque of New Orleans Pipe Trades to be the ideal date to host an event in New Orleans with the regional sponsors, though an a venue to hold the event had yet to be secured. Job One may potentially provide the venue.

An open house event for November 15 was announced to be held in Baton Rouge at Glenn Oaks High School. The event will feature a variety of Baton Rouge apprenticeship programs, speaking to juniors and seniors.

Hollins stated that on November 17 an employer event is set to be held at Bossier Parish Community College with participation from program sponsors, WIC and IBC committees, and the strategic action council to host a panel informing employers of the importance of apprenticeship and addressing solutions to address the wage gap of minorities in Shreveport.

Mr. Louis Reine suggested mentioning the IBC model with apprenticeship and how Glenn Oaks High School could incorporate it.

Hollins mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Jerry Repka from the New Orleans Carpenters and that he may be able to attend and describe their model. If Repka wouldn’t be able to attend, possibly Mr. Daniel Wintz with the Baton Rouge Carpenters would be able to present.

**NEW PROGRAMS**

**MARITIME SERVICES GROUP OF LOUISIANA**

**Program Sponsor – Tom McWhorter ATR – Michael Knapps**

**Tankerman**

Mr. Michael Knapps, Apprenticeship Training Represented introduced Mr. Tom McWhorter. Knapps indicated that Maritime Services Group of Louisiana (MSGOLA) has been running a successful training program for years in the high demand occupation of tankerman. He stated that they are looking to align their current model to Registered Apprenticeship with the hopes to expand their program even further. As the apprentices are aboard a vessel for days at a time, working a two-for-one schedule, with 12 hour days, Knapps explained that there is an abundance of hours for this program and therefore the hybrid approach would be utilized and individuals will be able to progress if competencies are met with approximate hours.

Hollins noted that they have been in contact with Ms. Melissa Kirsch at the local board, who is in support of the program, and that there is a water transportation grant that they qualify for to assist with some of the funding costs of their program.

Heier mentioned that Kirsch is a good endorsement to have.

McWhorter gave a PowerPoint presentation on the background of his program, with information about the industry as a whole. Following this presentation, the floor was opened for any of the council members to voice questions or concerns.

Mr. Aldo Irias-Duron asked where the training was held and who evaluates the apprentices’ progress.

McWhorter stated that they are based out of Slidell, LA, where the training is held. He also stated that MSGOLA administers the evaluation, gauging various skills, tasks, and technical knowledge.

O’Brien was curious as to what happens after the 14 day training, if they would place them with a hiring company. Also, he questioned how the following three years would go, if it would be exclusively OJT or additional classroom training.

McWhorter confirmed that each apprentice will be placed with an employer after the initial training. Following that, there will be a mixture of both OJT and RTI. The apprentices will be evaluated throughout, and their competencies will be measured. There is another 8 day class session.

O’Brien asked how many companies are currently aligned.

McWhorter responded that there are 7 currently for deckhand training, training for 30 different vessels. Several more companies are interested.

O’Brien asked if MSGOLA is affiliated with the seafarer’s union.

McWhorter replied no, but stated that it could be possible.

In McWhorter’s presentation, he mentioned different industry sector. O’Brien was interested in the service sector and asked what it entailed in regard to construction

McWhorter stated that they usually don’t use tankermen for that sector. They use deckhands for transfers of fuels.

When questioned about outreach, McWhorter mentioned the development of a form of qualifying factors to help bring to recruit prospective employees to MSGOLA. Additionally, they participate in several job fairs throughout the year. Military is also a target population.

O’Brien asked how long it would take an individual to become a pilot.

McWhorter stated 5 years typically, but legally possible at 3 and ½ years.

Hollins mentioned that this program could eventually develop into a pipeline for additional occupations.

Felton asked what kind of accountability would there be if something were to happen, in regard to hazmat training. What is his level of expectation?

McWhorter replied that when an individual signs a declaration of inspection, which is a federally required document by the United States Coast Guard, the individual is totally responsible.

Felton felt that the safety and health training portion of the Standards seemed sparse, considering the variety of hazmat training.

Hollins pointed out that it goes into greater detail of the training in Appendix A.

Heier asked if the application is based on current activities that meet or exceed United States Coast Guard requirements.

McWhorter confirmed this to be true, stating that their training meets or exceeds all requirements of current and future regulations.

O’Brien expressed concern about outreach across the state for such a program.

McWhorter stated that they put 120 people through in the downtime of this industry; so, outreach will be essential. They will recruit from anywhere within the state.

O’Brien asked if they reached out to Orleans or Jefferson Parish yet.

McWhorter stated they have not yet, but they certainly will.

Duron asked where the last training cohort came from geographically.

McWhorter explained that some were housed in Houma, Florida, Slidell, a few from New Orleans.

Felton and O’Brien expressed that they would be willing to connect them to local boards in other areas to assist with finding individuals for the potential 100-300 apprentice vacancies.

Heier asked for reassurance that MSGOLA is accredited through the United States Coast Guard.

McWhorter confirmed this stating that they inspect the curriculums and facilities. Students fill out critiques of the program about once a year, randomly.

Heier asked for any more questions. Where none were presented he called for a motion.

O’Brien made the motion for this apprenticeship program to be registered in the State of Louisiana.

Duron seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Hollins stated that there are several programs that will soon be ready to appear in front of the council, including Proserv and Dow Chemical. He suggested December 7, tentatively, for the next meeting. Following an extended break for the holidays, the subsequent meeting was suggested for the fourth Wednesday or Thursday in January.

Heier announced a poll will be held to gauge the availability of the entire council as the dates approach.

**ADJOURN**

**SUBSTANCE OF ALL MATTERS DECIDED:**

1. **The minutes from the previous State Apprenticeship Council meeting were approved.**
2. **Maritime Services Group of Louisiana’s apprenticeship program was registered in the State of Louisiana.**
3. **The next State Apprenticeship Council meeting will be tentatively scheduled for early December with the following meeting scheduled around the fourth week of January.**