

PLACE: U.S. Parole Commission, 90 K Street NE., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Determination on one original jurisdiction case.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Patricia W. Moore, Staff Assistant to the Chairman, U.S. Parole Commission, 90 K Street NE., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20530, (202) 346-7001.

Dated: January 31, 2012.

Rockne Chickinell,

General Counsel, U.S. Parole Commission.

[FR Doc. 2012-2635 Filed 2-2-12; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Parole Commission

Notice of Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m., Thursday, February 9, 2012.

PLACE: U.S. Parole Commission, 90 K Street NE., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Approval of December 8, 2011 minutes; reports from the Chairman, the Commissioners, and senior staff; Mental Health Docket.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Patricia W. Moore, Staff Assistant to the Chairman, U.S. Parole Commission, 90 K Street NE., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20530, (202) 346-7001.

Dated: January 31, 2012.

Rockne Chickinell,

General Counsel, U.S. Parole Commission.

[FR Doc. 2012-2637 Filed 2-2-12; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Notice of Random Assignment Study To Evaluate Workforce Investment Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs; Final Notice

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor (DOL or the Department) will conduct an evaluation to provide rigorous, nationally-representative estimates of the net impacts of intensive services and training provided under the Workforce

Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. The Department has determined that it is in the public interest to use a random assignment impact methodology for the study. This methodology will provide ETA with estimates of the net impacts of WIA intensive services and training that are offered during the evaluation study period. On July 21, 2011 (76 FR 43729-43731), the Department solicited comments concerning the Department's plan to use random assignment methodology in carrying out the study. This notice is to provide the Department's response to the comments received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eileen Pederson, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Policy Development and Research, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Frances Perkins Bldg., Room N-5641, Washington, DC, 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-3647 (this is not a toll-free number) or email: pederson.eileen@dol.gov. Individuals with hearing or speech impairments may access the telephone number above via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-(877) 889-5627 (TTY/TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On July 21, 2011, the Department announced its plans to conduct an evaluation of the net impacts of intensive services and training provided under WIA (Pub. L. 105-220) Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. To obtain rigorous, nationally representative estimates of WIA's effectiveness for adults and dislocated workers, the Department determined that it would use random assignment impact methodology for the evaluation.

The design of the study was described as follows: The evaluation will be done in approximately 30 randomly selected LWIAs. WIA applicants in the selected LWIAs who are eligible for intensive services would be randomly assigned to one of three groups. The three research groups to which they would be assigned are: (1) The full-WIA group—adults and dislocated workers in this group can receive any WIA services and training for which they are eligible, (2) the core-and-intensive group—adults and dislocated workers in this group can receive any WIA services for which they are eligible but no training, and (3) the core-only group—adults and dislocated workers in this group can receive only WIA core services but no intensive services or training.

In the LWIAs selected for the study, all applicants for intensive services and/or training will be asked to participate in the study during the 12-18 month study enrollment period. They will be informed of the evaluation, provided an opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification of their role and responsibilities should they agree to participate, and then required to give their consent to participate. Applicants who do not consent to participate in the study will not be randomly assigned to one of the study groups but will be allowed to receive core services only. The participant enrollment period will range between 12 and 18 months in each LWIA.

To protect the rights and welfare of WIA program applicants who agree to participate in the evaluation, the evaluation team, led by researchers from Mathematica and its subcontractor MDRC, submitted the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs evaluation design to MDRC's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for concurrence. An IRB is a committee specifically responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of humans involved in biomedical and behavioral research. On June 17, 2010, MDRC's IRB determined this study to be of no more than minimal risk and approved it.

The Department requested comments concerning its intent to carry out the random assignment study described above. The Department asked for comments focused on whether there is a methodology that would yield as credible and reliable impacts of the WIA programs as random assignment, but avoids adverse effect on the study participants. The Department also welcomed comments that suggest ways to more effectively minimize any adverse impact on the study participants who participate in the study described above.

II. Discussion of Comments Received

The Department received comments from four sources in response to the notice. The comments were received from two workforce departments, one advocacy group, and one private citizen. The Department's responses to the comments are provided below.

Comment: Two commenters asked about how other sources of funding for services would be accounted for in the study. One of these commenters asked whether the core-only group would have access to other partner services and, if so, the commenter suggested that the study take it into account through the follow-up survey. The other commenter was concerned that the study would not capture the nature of