

ACT Council for Telework and Alternative Work Arrangements
Meeting April 22, 2015, 3-4 p.m. Eastern Time

Participants: Elham Shirazi and Sara Hendricks – Co-Chairs, Melissa Madison – Vice-Chair, Beth Johnson - Secretary, Jim Barr ACT Board Council liaison

1. Potential Council-produced informational products/brochures

Following up on discussion at the March meeting in which Jason Pavluchuk urged the council to request ACT to take a more focused position on Telework and its relationship to transportation and become more active in the distribution of Telework whitepapers and articles both within ACT and to the larger audience, Sara provided 5 possible fact sheets or brochures that the Council could produce for different audiences – the ACT Board, ACT members, employers and policy makers. Sara asked the council to consider what would be the most useful product for each audience and what should be the role of the Telework Council in ACT overall. What ACT policy stance(s) is the Council looking for and how can the council help employers, employees and elected officials.

Elham felt that the council should develop a letter to the ACT Board asking it to make clear its position on councils in general and their role in the association. Council should take a more active role in public policy. Several issues that are currently at issue include no dedicated session at the Conference, no ability to bring in nonmembers to be speakers/presenters. The Telework Council has traditionally invited several nonmembers (often employers) from the conference host city/state to share their successful telework programs, but requiring them to pay for conference registrations will curtail this into the future. Council believes there is benefit to the membership in hearing from nonmembers who may have a different perspective. Jim recommended that council members should have a representative attend Board calls. Melissa suggested Council should show more leadership by making recommendations to the Board.

Council should write a position statement and present to the Board. Council should consider adding links on webpage to best resources available for Telework policy development. Discussion on vendors – to be included or not. If so, list should be vendor neutral. Council would like the ACT Board to develop a policy and guidelines and mechanisms for inclusion of vendors to such a list. Jim recommended Council prepare a written request to the Board regarding a vendor list draft policy and guidelines and send to him for presentation to the Executive Committee on 5/4. The Board's response can then be discussed at the next Council meeting.

2. Conference

Sara shared her proposal for a presentation for a panel session to highlight and showcase 3 successful Telework programs, but has not gotten formal approval notice from the conference committee. Council would still like the opportunity to invite at least one employer nonACT member to participate on the panel without requiring them to register for the conference.

3. Other

Council will cosponsor a webinar with Best Workplaces for Commuters to draw more participants/viewers to be scheduled after the conference

Next Meeting –May 5, 2015 at 2PM EDT. Beth will send out notice and inform Shona Bramble to get it on the ACT calendar and website.