

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, October 22, 2009 12:00 PM

Attending: Robert Alt; Roger Amidon; Mel Coleman (telephonic) Max Davis; Tana Ebbole; George Elmore; Patrick Franklin; Dr. Dennis Gallon; Rodger Hudspeth II; Randy Johnson, Sr.; Ken Kirby; Leo Noble; Steven Parrish; Elena Polanco; Dr. Melody Sanger; Charleen Szabo; David Talley; Jamie Titcomb; Clare Vazquez; Mary Watford; Bill Wood; and David Baker.

Staff: Kathryn Schmidt; Steve Craig; Jackie Halderman; Rick Hemming; Gerry Genovese; Don Scantlan; Denny Abbott; Doug Saenz; Maria Heredia; Mimi Coenen; Don Scantlan; Peter Pignataro; Matt Neisz; Rich Medel; Vicky Jackson; Mary Mullen Butler; Suzanne Rodrigues; and Holly Finch.

Guests: Steve Hatch and Ann Spagnolo from Comptec

- I. **WELCOME, FLAG SALUTE, INVOCATION AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS** – Randy Johnson said board meetings will now be opened with the pledge of allegiance and invocation. Before opening up the agenda, Kathryn Schmidt asked the board to join her in recognizing two people who are participating in a graduation ceremony at the West Career Center. The two program participants completed their General Education Diploma and are continuing their career path at Palm Beach Community College.
- II. **CONSENT AGENDA-Approved**
 - a. Summary of Board of Directors Meeting – August 20, 2009.
 - b. Approved recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, the appointment of Gary Vonk, President of the WPB Keiser University as a Board Member to replace Elizabeth Houlihan.
 - c. Approved Revised Training Provider/Course Lists.
- III. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
 - a. Randy Johnson reported that Chris Perez of South University, Faye Mallone (representing Title 5/older workers), and another person representing the Delray Beach Housing Authority are under consideration for nomination to the board. He said some of the positions to be filled are to fill a specific place on the required representations mandated by the state. He also invited all board members to make recommendations for new board members.

Randy Johnson then asked Mr. Gary Vonk to take a moment to further introduce him and welcomed him to the board. After his comments, it was noted the board appointment is forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.
 - b. December 17, 2009 Board Meeting – time change to 4 – 6 p.m. Randy Johnson invited board members to attend the holiday social meeting and to consider

underwriting refreshments. Board members who are interested in sponsoring the meeting can contact Kathryn. Prior to the social, the December meeting will also include a 15 minute presentation on the Carver Policy of Governance presented by Leo Noble.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Approved

- a.** Consortium Committee Meeting-Kathryn Schmidt reported on behalf of the Committee Chairs, Commissioners Taylor and Koons. She said the officers were elected with David Levy of Palm Beach Gardens as Vice Chair. The committee met and approved the Region 21/Workforce Alliance Workforce Services Plan to be forwarded to the state. Other actions included the approval of Roger Hudspeth II as a new member of the board of directors and Commissioner Koons presented an overview of LORI-an environmental restoration economic plan for the Glades community to impact generational poverty.
- b.** Financial Planning Committee-George Elmore reported the August meeting was held and members reviewed the close out of the fiscal year 2008-2009. There was a carryover of \$95,000, but the funds are scheduled to be expended, it is a matter of timing. During the October 6 meeting, the committee reviewed the July/Aug budget report. Further detail was requested on consultants and a breakdown of rented/leased space. The information was compiled and is available for review by anyone. George Elmore said funds are essentially spent as they are allocated by the state.
- c.** Business Outreach Committee – David Talley said the committee summaries for the August and October meetings are attached for review. The main topics covered were the Health Care Initiatives, the upcoming Forum and Summit, the Youth program. The meeting time has changed from 10 a.m. to 9 a.m. to immediately follow the Legislative Committee meetings. He asked everyone to mark on their calendars the January 27 and May 7 dates for the Forum and Summit. Randy Johnson encourages all board members to participate as guests of Workforce Alliance and to invite businesses to attend and support both events. David Talley added the presentations have been outstanding. Melody Sanger said the events also include a copy of the book written by the presenter.
- d.** Legislative Committee –Steve Parrish said the summary of the meeting is attached. The big issue is the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization. There is a federal push to remove the present system of local control by 24 regional boards to create eight “super boards.” Currently, Kathryn Schmidt, Randy Johnson, Vern Crawford are meeting with state legislators/their staff to present our concerns.

Randy Johnson said that Vern Crawford keeps the committee informed on what is happening. So far, they met with Sen. Wexler’s staff, Representative Hastings and Congressman Rooney’s staff. The meetings are an opportunity to provide general awareness of Workforce Alliance as a source of local information and expertise. The meeting also offers an opportunity to discuss how the efforts to

amend WIA reauthorization to the new super board model will negatively impact Palm Beach County businesses and job seekers.

Randy Johnson said that for now, healthcare is the top issue at the national level, but workforce issues are the second priority. He also complimented the efforts of the Legislative Committee. Kathryn Schmidt said the elevator speech for board members is that if the system is not broken, don't "fix" it. She added that PBCC provides 80 to 85% of the training for job seekers in the community. Randy Johnson said that we operate under the e3 model of linking economic development, education and employment on Palm Beach County.

Jamie Titcomb asked how workforce issues are viewed by government officials on a national, state and local level. Randy Johnson said that on a federal level, workforce is the second highest priority, before we can experience an economic recovery there is a need for workforce training.

Steve Parrish said the message is that we are all for changes for improvement, but we also support a local voice. In the past, there was no specific request from federal officials, now the message is maintain our local representation pertaining to workforce issues. Kathryn Schmidt said the funds for workforce training are federal funds that are allocated to the state and then to the local regions. The proposed model can interfere with how programs are funded and how much funding is provided for workforce training in each region.

- e. Youth Outreach Committee – Max Davis reported that they had a great meeting and Don Scantlan would be giving an update. Don Scantlan gave an overview of all youth programs, now named the NEXT GENERATION WORKFORCE programs. The Stimulus funded program serves 18 to 24 year old job seekers, the in-school youth programs through APNHO (Academy for Practical Nursing and Health Occupations) serves in school 16-18 year olds. The Goodwill program for people with disabilities serves 18-21 year old job seekers.

The in-house program was previously managed by an outside provider, but now is managed by staff to serve 19-21 year old job seekers. The NEXT GENERATION WORKFORCE program targets young adults who age out of foster care or who have a criminal background. Although job seekers are guided toward completing their high school diplomas, the goal of the program is immediate employment.

- f. Chair Oversight Committee- Steve Parrish said the committee met to discuss the open positions on the board of directors. Initially there was a discussion of a change in the by-laws but that is not necessary. After further research, there are only four members have terms that expire in January.

There was motion to accept all committee reports, the motion was accepted, and no discussion and the motion were unanimously approved.

- V. **TRENDS REPORT** – Peter Pignataro presented the ranking of Region 21/Workforce Alliance for the first three months of the fiscal year as currently holding first place in

the state in 7 of the 12 key metrics. He said the local performance has exceeded expectations, and to note the Career Center traffic increases. Peter Pignataro said to consider the new customer registrations are a compounded number; the numbers carry over from the previous month. Charlene Szabo said at the Veterans Administration Hospital, she is seeing a slower turnover of retiring workers. She asked if the rate of retirement for older workers is tracked in the data. She said they are seeing more overqualified workers taking entry level jobs.

Peter Pignataro said that he can look at the retirement rate of older workers. He added that another number they track is the number of people moving out of Florida. Melody Sanger asked (pertaining to the fastest growing occupations chart) where healthcare and biotech fall in the forecast. Dennis Gallon said that based on information shared by the Business Development Board, PBCC is developing a workforce training program for the aerospace industry. He asked for more detail on the jobs in demand that fall under the aerospace field. Bill Wood recommended more detailed information be presented in the future about emerging occupations by the industry clusters currently supported by the BDB. Kathryn Schmidt said that Doug Saenz currently represents Workforce Alliance within the industry cluster meetings. Mel Coleman asked how often the projections are updated. He said the projection piece is important but to verify the reliability of the information and how often the data is updated. He added that it is critical that we look for opportunities to train people in our region who are not leaving the state. Peter Pignataro said the updates are monthly when new information is obtained, and the state provides a quarterly update of all information. The quality of the data is reliant on the surveys of businesses in Palm Beach County.

- VI. STIMULUS UPDATE**-Jackie Halderman introduced the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program presentation project as an opportunity to promote the success of the program to obtain funding for next year. The digital presentation was also a vehicle to provide Summer Youth employment for those with digital video production skills at the West Palm Beach Youth Empowerment Center. One of the crew from the video production project was actually hired by Disney and another has been hired on full-time by the producer, Dwayne Taylor. For the actual shooting and editing, four summer youth were hired and paid by stimulus funds. The presentation will be posted on the Workforce Alliance website and DVDs will be made available.

Rick Hemming presented updates on the stimulus funded summer youth, adult training and adult dislocated worker training projects. Workforce Alliance is number one in the state for the number of youth who have obtained full-time employment as a result of the Stimulus funded summer program. Enrollment for adult training program for those with economic disadvantages is at 107 and for the dislocated worker program 126 are in workforce training classes.

Workforce Alliance is partnering with PBCC to train childcare workers and is working on a Housing and Urban Development grant on the Coleman Park redevelopment project with the City of West Palm Beach. Other training program projects and partners include the Urban League, PBCC and Florida Educational Institute. Goodwill and the Urban League were partners in the Summer Youth Program. Workforce

Alliance is also working with the Florida Manufacturing and Extension Partnership to train 15 people who are placed in manufacturing jobs upon completion.

- VII. PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT** – Kathryn Schmidt said the board requested to be informed on the economic development activity in the western communities to address the high unemployment. She thanked Denny Abbott for his efforts and indicated that we continue to work with FPL and address challenges with Zachery Construction. The Inland Port Project is on hold at this time. The Business Services Update presentation will be postponed to the December meeting.

- VIII. LEGAL COUNSEL** – David Baker reported that Workforce Alliance obtained a judgment with attorney fees and interest for a deposit on the Fern Street office. The only local asset is the building and parking lot. We are pursuing the landlord to obtain revenue from the parking lot, but the best opportunity for payment would be from the sale of the building scheduled for November.

For information, a grievance was filed by a training provider, New Horizons. There is a preliminary meeting next week but the result may be a full blown grievance procedure.

- IX. COMMENTS** – Kathryn Schmidt noted that Dr. Coleman is also participating in curriculum development for the stimulus funded early learning certification training program.

- X. ADJOURNMENT** – Next Meeting, Thursday, December 17 at 4:00 PM