

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 1, 2009, 8:00 am

Committee

Members Attending: Randy Johnson, David Talley, Steve Parrish, Amy Dean, Dr. Dennis Gallon and Vern Crawford (via telephone)

Alliance

Staff Attending: Kathryn Schmidt, Steve Craig, Rick Hemming, Sharon Brea

- I. Meeting called to order by Steven Parrish. No additions, deletions or corrections were made to the standing agenda.
- II. Review and approval of draft Minutes from August 6, 2009 meeting (David Talley/Amy Dean). The minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Legislative Updates: WIA Reauthorization

Vern Crawford reported Washington's focus has been on health care as the main issue. A plan to redo WIA policy may be forthcoming in the second legislative session in January 2010 that is no different than last year for workforce. A continuing resolution will be passed in the short term to pass the federal budget.

Kathryn reported a conference call was held with the other workforce board CEO's and Broward's Board attorney Rochelle Daniels regarding the reauthorization of WIA which continues to take several different directions. Rochelle provided eight issue points to be addressed by the boards. Kathryn suggested selecting three for the committee's focus. Steve Parrish commented on the lobbying guidelines for staff and committee members and requested that we ensure they were followed.

The importance of Region 21, Palm Beach County having a local voice with the legislative body was noted. Many organizations are weighing in on the WIA reauthorization such as Jobs for the Future, The Center for Law and Social Programs Assoc., Technical and Community Colleges, Center for American Programs, AFL-CIO, and Council of La Raza. Dr. Gallon noted Alliance has synchronized partnerships with the education community that not all Regions share. The possibility of creating super boards that are regionalized was also being discussed, which could be detrimental resulting in the loss of local control. The Workforce Boards are encouraged to list the good that has been achieved through their boards. Rusty Skinner will appear before the senate with a unified voice for the boards noting their preference for local governance (no super boards), the local employment system, coordination with community partners and technical training with the school districts. Kathryn noted time has been requested to meet with the Palm Beach Board of Commissioners through Shannon LaRocque to educate the Commissioners regarding current workforce issues.

- IV. The NAWB conference is scheduled to be held the second weekend in March 2010. Vern will arrange to meet with local delegation members or chief of staff. Alliance Legislative Committee members are encouraged to attend.
- V. Alliance Board Membership. Kathryn reported several vacancies will exist on the Alliance Board of Directors during the upcoming months. Staggered board terms were discussed over two and three years. An amendment to the bylaws is also being considered. Committee discussion held.
- VI. Action Items
 - Randy Johnson will contact the city of South Bay to inquire whether Mr. George Perez wishes to maintain his seat on the Alliance Board of Directors.
 - Vern Crawford will e-mail to Kathryn the confirmed dates/times with legislative staff regarding workforce matters (October 19th). Those dates/times will be forwarded to committee members to solicit member interest in attending.
 - Vern Crawford will meet with Kathryn to develop discussion points for the legislator meetings.
 - Kathryn will e-mail Committee members the handout from the conference call with Rochelle Daniels and workforce board CEO's.
 - Committee members are to advise Kathryn if they wish to attend the NAWB conference in March 2010.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING –DECEMBER 3rd, 2009.