

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE BUSINESS OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 1, 2009 9:00am

Attending: Kelly Smallridge; Randy Johnson; David Talley, Pamela Sands and (telephonic) Patrick Franklin

Guests: Robin Bogatz, Kelly Services/guest of Pamela Sands

Staff: Kathryn Schmidt, Steve Craig, Paul Hederman, Jackie Halderman, Gerry Genovese, Rick Hemming, Maria Heredia, Carol Carlson and Holly Finch

- I. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome - Kelly Smallridge
- II. Review/Accepted Summary – August 6, 2009
- III. Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda - none

- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Workforce Services Plan-Steve Craig reported the plan was approved by the Consortium and sent to the state 9/16/09.

 - b. Mayor’s, Business Development Board (BDB), Chambers of Commerce and Workforce Alliance projects – Kelly Smallridge reported the BDB and Workforce Alliance are meeting with businesses interested in relocation and expansion in Palm Beach County. As a result, Workforce Alliance played a role in the seven companies which plan to open 250 new jobs. She thanked Workforce Alliance staff for their professionalism in the joint presentations and for the follow-up provided. Kathryn Schmidt also recognized staff for the partnership and offered to support the BDB with new projects.

 - c. **Workforce Summit – May 7, 2010 – Geoffrey Colvin, “Talent is Overrated”**
Jackie Halderman reported the Summit and Forum events are accepting registrations online. Sponsorship packages will be provided to the board members at the October meeting. Gerry Genovese said the Business Services team is taking an aggressive approach and meeting with employers face to face to highlight both events. Save the date postcards and flyers were provided to the Business Outreach Committee.

- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. **Workforce Leadership Forum - January 27, 2010 – Marianne Jennings, “The Seven Signs of Ethical Collapse.”** Kelly Smallridge asked how many are anticipated to attend. Steve Craig said 200 to 300 for the main presentation from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and approximately 100 for a private post-event discussion workshop for sponsors, board members and invited guests. Sponsors for the event include Leadership Palm Beach County and WPBF 25.

 - b. Summer Youth Program and Glades Projects Board Presentation – Kathryn Schmidt said a short video produced by summer youth participants will be shown to highlight the program and the success stories. She announced that Workforce Alliance is number one in the state for the number of youth hired as a result of the program. Patrick Franklin said he has received letters of praise from employers for the program. He said he would provide the letters to support the board presentation.

 - c. Glades Projects – Steve Craig distributed an overview of projects currently underway in the Glades and the support provided by Workforce Alliance staff. Kelly Smallridge asked if Workforce Alliance was involved with the Inland Port project Strategic Planning. Gerry Genovese said he is working with Florida Crystals and the final proposal will be completed next week.

- VI. General Discussion –Kathryn Schmidt encouraged the Business Outreach Committee to continue to bring ideas and suggestions for new projects. She said for example, as a member of the committee years ago, Randy Johnson was instrumental in promoting the Forum and Summit events to increase community involvement with business leaders. She thanked the committee for their input and asked for their guidance to meet the challenges facing employers.

Pam Sands said that areas she sees as emerging for workforce training and future job opportunities includes the health informatics field where hospitals will have to transition hard copy medical records to electronic document management. Additionally, she sees indications of growth in nanotechnology in science, chemistry, Information Technology.

Randy Johnson said he was notified at the CJC that a national story on the Youth Empowerment Centers is being produced by CNN. He also said that as he is out in the community, he is pleased to see the tremendous reputation of Workforce Alliance as the local workforce expert. He complimented Don Scantlan on his recent appearance on CBS 12 news morning program.

Kelly Smallridge said that the culmination of the Encompass series is the Workforce and Education event to be held October 29th. Workforce Alliance, PBCC, FAU and the School District will be featured.

Amy Dean said she has been working with Workforce Alliance staff to prepare a grant. If the funding is approved, PBCC and Workforce Alliance will help to train a pipeline of healthcare workers for the region. Kathryn Schmidt said the grant proposal includes the incentive of utilizing the mobile units as tools for assessments. Additionally, staff continues to link with hospitals to offer employed worker training and on the job training opportunities. At the end of the week we are submitting a US Dept. of Labor Grant. Amy Dean said Doug Sáenz is doing a remarkable job reaching out to partners.

Steve Craig said in meetings with a new wastewater facility employer, Workforce Alliance provided a list of 25,000 local job seekers sorted by job skills and experience. He said this is one of the many services we can provide. Kelly Smallridge said the BDB is putting together a new website for CEOs looking for Palm Beach County information such as shovel ready land, educational resources, commercial and residential space. She asked if the job seeker information can be linked or sent to the website monthly.

VII. NEXT MEETING – December 3, 2009