

CHAIR'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

TUESDAY, October 6th, 2009

Attending: George Elmore, Steve Parrish, Bill Wood, Max Davis
Staff: Kathryn Schmidt, Suzanne Rodrigues
Legal: David Baker
Telephonic: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Steve Parrish, future Chair of the Board. Legal Counsel advised that there should be official minutes to this meeting.

■ A review of talking points from July 28th meeting was completed.

■ Mr. Parrish made mention that he thought there was a conversation regarding Board Members/appointments at the last meeting. Kathryn went on to advise that today's meeting would include the Board Member topic.

Kathryn took the lead to say that the prior/current Board appointments were lumped into terms. A review of all appointments was made with best effort put forth to maintain expertise on the Board. Rochelle Daniels was called in to meet with Kathryn, Steve Craig and David Baker and she provided an explanation as to what is mandatory for the Board. It was discovered that, in some areas, we were not in compliance.

A review of the matrix was discussed in detail. In summary, there are four members whose terms will expire. They are Clare Vazquez, William Wood, Elena Polanco and Alfred Zucaro.

It was noted that there are four mandatory partners needed to comply with our Board requirements. They are:

1. Private Certificate Granting Institution with ITAs
2. Title V Older Worker
3. HUD E&T
4. Welfare/Workforce Services

Suggestions to fill positions follow:

1. Chris Perez, Academy of South Florida (suggested by Rochelle Daniels)
2. Fay Malone, Experience Works
3. Representative from Delray Housing Authority (Bill Wood to research)
4. Consider individual from Workforce Services (Law dictates a person who is a former recipient.) (Cannot use Perry Borman as he is not a former recipient.)

Steve Parrish inquired as to what happens if we do not comply with the stated requirements. David Baker suggested, now that we have discovered we are not in compliance, that we strive to become compliant as soon as possible. David reminded those attending the meeting that the State must sign off on our Board composition.

Attendees of the meeting were asked to refer to the Board Membership Roster Certification which visually outlines Board Members, their respective terms, and which RWB Members are mandatory (evidenced by asterisks). Kathryn stated that there was some executive discretion taken in adjusting terms to allow current expertise to rotate terms on board. David Baker stated that we will be proposing cycling terms in the future which will avoid a mass exodus of Board Members/expertise. The Board can decide if they would like this set up that way.

Clarification was provided in that the Board does not approve Board Members rather their role is to recommend Board Members to the County. The Board does prefer to get a consensus on the recommendations. Need to be sensitive to the wording of approvals versus recommendations.

Kathryn shared a conversation she had with Commissioner Koons in which Commissioner Koons asked what the Consortium could do to make the process easier. Kathryn said that she would like to pass the role of all private approvals to the Consortium. For this authority to be delegated to the Consortium, it needs to go in front of the Board of Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Koons will explore this possibility. David Baker reminded the group that no one entity can approve the majority of Board Members.

David Baker went on to share that the Commissioners identify board Members by a seat number. This enables one to clearly attach terms to a "seat". He would like to implement seat numbers for all positions. Mr. Elmore asked why we use January 31st as expiration date for term. Kathryn said to her knowledge, it has always been that way. Officers are based on fiscal year and Board terms based on January 31st. Between now and 2010, we need to create staggered terms to avoid a severe loss of experienced Board Members.

Question came up as to how long Commissioner Koons sits on the Board for County Commissioners. It is believed one year. Unknown if their terms are based on calendar year or not.

Update on Summer Youth Program. The program was extremely successful. There were no findings recorded from the recent audit of the program. All funds received were spent as designed. It has been decided to keep the program open until the end of March, 2010 in hopes of getting additional funds. It is believed that there is still more federal money out there. Region 21 is number one in the State in having summer youths gaining full time employment from the summer program. To date, there is a total of 45 hires. We met all goals of the program. A video highlighting the success of the summer program is being developed and will be shown at our next Board meeting.

New Board Discussion. Max Davis stated that we have a challenge in getting the Board Members engaged. Kathryn feels that the Board appreciated the reports that were shown at the last Board meeting and it is planned to provide more reports, to be focused on stimulus dollars and what we did with same, for the next meeting. Mr.

Davis voiced a concern about the mobile unit not being available often enough. Kathryn stated that the mobile unit supports many community partners so it may not always be available at all times. We are scheduled to begin library facilities that will be open to all the population of Palm Beach County.

Steve Parrish suggests that we talk about the good, the bad, and how we can improve on things. We tend to report and not engage. Include such things as which employers hired, which ones did not. It's okay to talk about the good stuff but also need to be aware of how we can improve on things. Use Board Member input and experiences.

Bill Wood stated that we don't have to be concerned with things that are not broken. However, for things that need attention, those things should be discussed. One example given was the claim from the criminal justice representatives. Need to determine exactly what their needs and expectations are. Kathryn feels the situation with criminal justice system involves a lack of understanding of our funding stream. They liked the old PEG program which was grant funded because it did not have any restrictions. Formula funds provided are done so with explicit restrictions. Mr. Wood said that perhaps we need to communicate again what grant money versus restricted funds are all about. Kathryn stated that she already has a meeting scheduled with representatives from the criminal justice system and will find out exactly what their concerns are.

Mr. Elmore stated that we need to eliminate any negative or outspoken comments about Workforce Alliance. Although every effort is made to treat all visitors at our centers the same, perception by the public does not necessarily agree to that statement. If someone is unhappy, we need to get to the bottom of it. We must understand what the problem is before we can address it. Once we know what the problem is, then bring it to the Board. The Board can then learn the situations and will be better suited to support Kathryn and Workforce.

🎬 WIA Reauthorization. Kathryn stated that this could be a serious problem. The State wants to go back and run Workforce. Unions and State employees would take over. We would no longer have any local control because everything would be managed by the State. Kathryn presented those attending the meeting with a schedule of meetings she has set with local legislators. We need to position them with information and enlist their support to keep local presence.

🎬 Update on prior Landlord situation. Mr. Elmore asked about the status of our refund due. David Baker said that we are in line for repayment following a 13.5 million dollar Citibank mortgage. The mortgage comes first. David is working the parking lot scenario to see if we can recover something from that end. Parking lot is also heavily mortgaged. We may be able to get recovery in the form of parking spaces.

🎬 Next meeting – send out proposed dates to consider.