

## **WORKFORCE ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, August 20, 2009 12:00 PM**

Attending: Robert Alt; Max Davis; (telephonic) Tanna Ebbole; George Elmore; Patrick Franklin; Dr. Dennis Gallon; Ed Gruvman; (telephonic) Elizabeth Houlihan; Dr. Art Johnson; Randy Johnson, Sr.; (telephonic) Ken Kirby; Leo Noble; Steven Parrish; Elena Polanco; Dr. Melody Sanger; Charleen Szabo; David Talley; Rep. Priscilla Taylor; Jamie Titcomb; Mary Watford; Bill Wood; and David Baker.

Staff: Steve Craig; Jackie Halderman; Rick Hemming; Gerry Genovese; Maria Heredia; Mimi Coenen; Don Scantlan; Peter Pignataro; Doug Saenz; Rich Medel; Paul Hederman; Patrick Cannan; Chuck Hunter; Mary Mullen Butler; Suzanne Rodrigues; and Holly Finch. Guests: Dr. Claudia Hillinger, VP of Institute Development, Max Planck Florida Institute and Roger Hudspeth of WPB Sheetmetal & Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC), Dennis Miles attending as a representative of Perry Borman.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS – Randy Johnson**

Additions-Randy Johnson revised the agenda to add a flag salute and an opening prayer/invocation to follow self introductions.

### **II. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

- a. Randy Johnson informed the board that Kathryn Schmidt is taking personal and vacation time off and Steve Craig will serve as acting CEO.
- b. The Board Oversight Committee is addressing a high number of term expirations in January 2010. The committee will be evaluating various options including rotation off the board or stagger term expirations throughout the year. They will also evaluate whether changes are necessary to the By-Laws and Consortium Agreement.

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA-Approved**

- a. Summary of Board of Directors Meeting – June 18, 2009  
The board unanimously approved the Summary with one revision (replace “Scripps Institute” with “Max Planck”) to the President/CEO Report.
- b. Approval of the 2009-2010 Local Workforce Services Plan

### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Approved**

- a. Consortium Committee Meeting-no meeting/report.
- b. Financial Planning Committee-George Elmore reported on the June 8 meeting of the Finance Committee. The committee recommends board approval of the closeout of the last fiscal year. Bill Wood moved for acceptance of the 08-09 year-end budget, Jamie Titcomb seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. George Elmore said the committee is reviewing the current year budget and several questions are being addressed, the committee will provide a budget report at the next board meeting.
- c. Business Outreach Committee – David Talley said the committee continues to receive positive feedback on the 2009 Workforce Summit. The 2010 Summit is confirmed for Friday, May 7 and asks the board to note the dates on their 2010 calendars. The committee also heard a report on the Summer Youth Program. An updated report on the Summer Youth Program was presented later during the meeting. At the last meeting a change for future meeting times was discussed and beginning with the October meeting, the committee will now meet at 9

a.m. immediately following the Legislative Committee meeting, which meets at 8 a.m.

- d. Legislative Committee –Rep. Priscilla Taylor reported that with the summer adjournment and the many budget issues, there was really nothing new to report at this time. Randy Johnson said that Vern Crawford is working on an event to highlight workforce before the local delegation returns to Tallahassee.
- e. Youth Outreach Committee – Next meeting is September 10. Instead of a meeting report, Rick Hemming reported on the Summer Youth Employment & Training Program.

**V. STIMULUS BILL UPDATE – Rick Hemming**

Overview: 4111 young adults screened, 1010 Young Adults trained by Workforce Alliance and employed for six weeks. 514 were from the Central, 340 from Western and 156 from Southern Palm Beach County and the remaining were through contracts with the Urban League and Gulfstream Goodwill. The goal was for 250 to be employed at the close of the program and all indications are that the goal will be exceeded. More people could have been employed if additional funds were made available. Workforce Alliance received a tremendous amount of positive media coverage. At the next board meeting, the board will view a brief video overview of the program and its impact on Palm Beach County and the video project was also incorporated into an employment training piece of the Youth program. Ed Gruvman asked about the type of screening provided by Workforce Alliance. Rick Hemming said employers who asked for background checks, were accommodated. Patrick Franklin said that the Urban League had 150 people apply for 30 jobs for the program and only a few had ever held a job before. Max Davis wanted to thank Rick Hemming because in the past he has had contractors say they were unable to locate kids who needed services. Rick Hemming also stated we had no findings from the State auditors on our Youth Program and that it was one of the best they had seen. Randy Johnson asked the board to give a round of applause to congratulate the staff on a job well done. (applause)

**VI. TRENDS REPORTS-Peter Pignataro – Review of Performance**

Measures/Workforce Alliance finished first in 7 of 12 key State metrics. Graphs were presented to indicate month-to-month increases in Career Center traffic, registrations in the Employ Florida Marketplace, and regional unemployment. After a brief discussion about the unemployment rate in the Glades, Peter Pignataro was asked to research and present further information on the unemployment rates in Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Canal Point. Additionally, Patrick Franklin asked for a one-page outline of options to address unemployment in the Glades. The Board asked that a one-page summary be provided at future Board Meetings which would provide them with what the current issues are for western Palm Beach County. Jamie Titcomb said the county is working on a broadband grant for the western communities. Max Davis asked how more resources could be sent to the Glades. Mary Watford added that stimulus funds for on the job training were received through Vocational Rehabilitation. Steve Craig said that many grant opportunities cannot be applied for because Palm Beach County is currently designated as an urban community. Rep. Taylor said that she has encouraged the small communities to regionalize to be eligible for grants for cities larger than 15,000 residents.

Board Chair Randy Johnson asked for a letter of support to be drafted and signed off by the board of directors to support the Inland Port Project to be based in Palm Beach County to be sent to the Dept. of Transportation, the Board of County Commissioners, the Port of Palm Beach, League of Cities, South Florida Water Management (SFWM) and the Palm Beach County

**Legislative Delegation office.** The board discussed the letter of support and unanimously approved the action.

- VII. PRESENTATION ON MAX PLANCK FLORIDA INSTITUTE**-Dr. Claudia Hillinger, Vice President of Institutional Development discussed their mission, expected growth and community involvement. (for information, visit [www.maxplanckflorida.org](http://www.maxplanckflorida.org))
- VIII. NEW BOARD MEMBER** – The board unanimously approved the appointment of Roger Hudspeth to replace Lynn Robertia representing the Union 32 Sheetmetal Workers. The Consortium will also vote on this replacement when they meet on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- IX. GRANTS UPDATE**-Doug Saenz reported on Workforce Alliance’s health care initiatives, a Bank of America grant. Additionally, he addressed the issue of economic development in the Glades and said that a project is underway to bring jobs through a major dredging area to open up the Pahokee Marina. Dr. Sanger mentioned that through an EWT grant from Workforce Alliance, her staff was trained through a webinar on FDA inspections. She thanked Gerry Genovese and his staff for their efforts.
- X. LEGAL COUNSEL** – David Baker reported that Workforce Alliance obtained a judgment with attorney fees for a deposit on the Fern Street office. He is currently in the discovery process to identify assets and believes we are in a good position to collect since the owner is negotiating the potential sale of the building. In addition, the lease for the Boca location has been delayed because of the requirement of an exit clause in the event Workforce Alliance is defunded.
- XI. COMMENT** – Randy Johnson said that he wanted to say that he can’t tell everyone how pleased he is to be serving the board. He said he has achieved his goal of seeing Workforce Alliance recognized as the expert source for businesses and job seekers to participate in the top quality workforce development programs in Palm Beach County and the State of Florida.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – Next Meeting, Thursday, October 15 at 12:00 PM