

**WORKFORCE FLORIDA
WORKFORCE READINESS & PERFORMANCE COUNCIL**

**WORKFORCE READINESS COMMITTEE
Teleconference Meeting, January 6, 2009: 3:30 P.M.**

Meeting Summary

The Workforce Readiness Committee, of the Workforce Readiness & Performance Council, met via telephone and web conference on January 6, 2009. The committee members in attendance included: The Chairman, Eric Kennedy, Hilda Quintero, Doug Beach, JoAnn Williams, J. B. Black, Mary Lou Brunell, Everett Kelly, Don Winstead, and Michael Stephenson.

The summary of the November 19, 2008 committee meeting was presented for approval. A motion was made by Mary Lou Brunell and seconded by Hilda Quintero to approve the summary as the official minutes of the meeting. The motion was approved.

Chris Hart, President of Workforce Florida made a presentation on the current “Recovery Florida” effort to design a workforce system response to the current economic crisis for an effort to assist those out of work to become reemployed, focusing both on those who are readily employable as well as those in need of training. The training component of the initiative would be directed toward training in growth sector occupations. The Health Care Sector has been identified as the leading targeted growth sector for the state-level training effort. He also outlined a regional component under consideration. This component would potentially involve the Regional Workforce Boards by encouraging them to identify local growth industries that could be targeted for local training as part of

the overall effort. He stated that the goal was to draft a recommendation for presentation at the January 28, 2009 meeting of the Workforce Florida Executive Committee. He asked the members of the committee for their opinion on this approach that would couple overall state-level training in the health care sector with training in regionally identified local growth industries. The response from the members was generally favorable. He also stated that it is important for the effort to look beyond the current economic crisis to identify continuing needs.

Sherril Claus with Geographic Solutions made a presentation to demonstrate the current capabilities of the Employ Florida Marketplace (EFM) interface with the unemployment compensation system to import claimant data into EFM. She then briefly outlined possibilities that could enhance this process in order to better facilitate the workforce staff's and employers' abilities to search this data by job skill and employment history and how these enhancements could improve services. She also illustrated the increased effectiveness that could be obtained by collecting the unemployment compensation claimant's email address. With the email address the system would have the capability to generate communications directly with the claimants to inform them of job openings for which they may qualify.

The committee discussed the presentation and the importance of moving forward as soon as possible with the implementation of enhancements to facilitate improved capabilities to serve the unemployment compensation claimant. The possibility of the collection of more complete unemployment claimant information at the point of application was also

discussed and this will also be pursued to determine the extent to which this could be accomplished given the costs and other limitations involved.

Don Winstead with the Florida Department of Children and Families informed the committee of a recent letter that he had received from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The letter announced the opportunity for local areas applying to become study sites to identify best practices. He stated that he would forward the details to staff as this could bring the some of the state's regions the possibility of additional funding.

Steve Urquhart briefly introduced the blog site being set up for the Workforce Readiness Committee. Jay Barber, the Workforce Florida general council, discussed the requirements of Florida Sunshine Law as it would apply to committee members' use of the blog. He outlined the definition of a meeting under law and stated that communications between committee members via the blog could not occur without the prior public notice and public access required for a meeting. He stated that members and others could post information, opinions, etc. on the blog for review but that committee members could not respond directly to each other's postings without it constituting a meeting. The committee members discussed how they could move forward with the blog under the requirements outlined by Jay. Jay will summarize the requirements as he presented them. (See the attached summary.)

The committee chairman, Eric Kennedy stated that he planned to convene another committee meeting no later than 7-10 days prior to the Workforce Florida council and board meetings scheduled for February 18 and 19, 2009. He stated that staff would be contacting the members about possible meeting times.

Due to the time constraints the chairman tabled until the next meeting the final agenda item regarding the memorandum of understanding among WFI, Gulf Coast Community College, Gulf Power and the St. Joe Company.

The meeting was adjourned.