



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Committee Members Attending: Buddy Streit – Chair and Jim Baiardi.

Others Attending: Steve Urquhart, Dehryl McCall – WFI, Holly Carson, Dianne Vacca – AWI, Terri Eggers - DJJ, Tammy Workman DCF, Gail Galbraith – 21, Julie Sanno – 15, Brenda Gause Region - 16, Richard Williams and Rose Adams - 3, Jennifer German – 4 , Mary Lou Reed and Linda Sumblin – 2, Debby Tharpe – 5, Bryan Stone -8, Anna Schneider and Jean Ledew – 7, Maggie Thomas and Kathy Karshan – 1, Robin King Region 11, Alice Cobb – 12 and Carol Hilton - 22.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome & attendance – Buddy Streit
- Review of the reason for this call. Dehryl was asked to frame the purpose of the call. The Committee has influence over 500K that could be used to help influence or prime the pump for the Summer Youth Programs. The Chief Operating Officers (COO) group was asked to participate in today's call and provide input from the regional workforce board perspective concerning Summer Youth programs in anticipation of the Federal economic stimulus package. Additionally, the PBIF funds are coming in May for use in July as well as the proposed Economic Stimulus package funds, which could mean an additional 43 million dollars in youth funding to Florida.
- Alice Cobb spoke about the lengthy discussion the COO group had with the RWBs on how quickly they could ramp up and prepare for a summer youth employment program. Alice recommended that the following individuals speak for the COO group: Bryan Stone, Linda Sumblin, Jennifer German and Carol Hilton. They will be making recommendations to the Florida Workforce Development Association (FWDA).
- Buddy asked for input from the group as to why the RWBs should need these funds to ramp up for Summer Youth programs. The Federal Economic Stimulus package funding will be given directly to the RWBs. Jennifer German stressed the need for the development to begin as soon as possible. This was echoed by Linda Sumblin and she stated that all the RWBs were in the same situation. Linda spoke to the dynamic and specifics of operating Summer Youth programs. She suggested an equal allocation to each region.

- Chair - Buddy Streit asked if we knew enough about whether or not we would be getting these funds to suggest funding this initiative. Steve Urquhart spoke to the House Bill and Senate Bill looking the same and Dehryl McCall weighed in regarding the flexibility and how the HR1 bill uses language that does not restrict the use of funds to only summer employment. Although the direction seems to be moving towards a strong Summer Youth component. Additionally, USDOL has asked for select states to offer up two locals with knowledge of operating Summer Youth programs. These individuals from Florida are Bryan Stone from Jacksonville and Alice Cobb from Orlando. Buddy spoke to the fact that we might be acting to an assumption until we have a final bill passed. Steve weighed in stating that our USDOL officials are pushing the Summer Youth component strongly and there has been analysis that Florida would receive approximately 43 million dollars. Steve stated that if we were to try and enact a Summer Youth program we are already 3 months behind. One question is that if we move in this direction, do we pilot the funds or use an allocation formula? Steve stated that by Presidents Day (February 16th) we should have a signed Bill. Jim Baiardi spoke to the ambiguity of what we will finally end up with and liked the pilot approach as opposed to allocating to all regions but agreed that we had no time to spare.
- Bryan Stone weighed in and spoke to the information he received from his contacts in Washington who stated that this is coming. Bryan spoke to the lack of Summer Youth programs in our RWBs since the transition from JTPA into WIA back in 1998. Buddy asked about the change from Summer Youth to the Year Round Youth. Brian stated that at that time USDOL felt like engaging a youth in a year-round program was far more effective than a summer only program. With this stimulus package it looks as if it is changing back to a summer only program. Buddy stated that “yes” we have to take advantage of the Stimulus package funding but that the Youth Opportunities Committee is interested in long-term solutions to youth workforce issues. We need to be expedient here and a year round approach has a stronger impact. Brian suggested that funding this initiative would afford the RWBs the ability to plan correctly and make the connections with partners and do it right away, as now they are behind the eight ball.
- Buddy asked for ideas on how RWBs would make this happen. Bryan stated that he would immediately hire a part-time and perhaps a full time person to plan for the summer program. Brian spoke to the need to move quickly just to develop the vision and not even speaking about all the specifics and details of the summer youth program.
- Buddy asked Richard Williams if he saw any connection with the Federal Economic Stimulus and what the Committee saw on our site visits. Richard stated that he did see connections but each region would know their own individual needs. Richard also spoke to a best practice of using teachers during the summer and the impact they saw on the participating youth.
- Jim Baiardi spoke to his involvement as a youth in a New York Summer Job program. He credited his stable work history to his involvement at the age of 13 or 14 and how he received some strong values. Carol spoke to her involvement in running summer youth programs. Broward county runs a 16-18 year old summer youth employment program and how they received 2,500 applications within a three week period. The proposed bill opens this up to 14 – 24 year olds. This will greatly impact the staffing needs to operate a summer program to this size. She reiterated that we are way behind the eight ball. She mentioned that piloting is good when you have time but now we don’t have much time.
- Alice Cobb spoke to the issue that every regional board will have to start up a summer youth program. She spoke to the fact that the RFP process would take too long to get the

funding out and the difference between the regions and that issued pilot might not work. Buddy agreed. Bryan spoke to the fact that the 24 regional workforce boards are already working together and sharing documents to help each other. Carol who used to work in region 21 and now works in region 22 spoke to the difference between the regions and agreed that an equal distribution of the funding between regions would be best. Linda agreed to this idea of an equal distribution. Jennifer German agreed as well.

Buddy asked Steve about the timing on the funding. Steve stated that we have to commit the 500K by June 30 but it would not look good if we still had these monies at the May meeting. He also spoke to the fact that the Council has the discretion to distribute the funds. What would have to be looked at is if the Committee agreed to an equal distribution among the RWBs and would that really achieve the Council and Committee's goal. Could we really be effective with this approach? The regions are saying yes. Buddy spoke to the fact that the size differences of the regions may not do well with an equal allocation. Richard voiced the issue that each RWB will have to staff up for this regardless of the size. Buddy posed the issue of the funds would not only be used to fund staff. Alice mentioned the point that the RWBs are sharing information and she agreed to the funding allocation method. She mentioned the wish to see Florida in the fore front nationally. Mary Lou agreed. Carol agreed. Tammy Workman spoke to DCF's implementation of DCF's "Operation Full employment". Tammy wants to reach out to our workforce partners. Dehryl wants her to share more about this with the partners at the next Strengthening Youth Partnerships meeting in late February.

Next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 10th. We will put together recommendations for the next call. Steve mentioned that it might be useful to invite Bryan and Alice for the next conference call to provide feedback from their discussion on Summer Youth programs with USDOL later this week. Buddy thanked all for their participation.