

Westchester County Board of Legislators

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE
Joint with the Committees on Community Services
And Government Operations**

MINUTES: April 27, 2009

Economic Recovery Task Force: Chair: Tom Abinanti; Legislators: Peter Harckham, Ken Jenkins, James Maisano, Martin Rogowsky

Community Services: Chair: Lois Bronz; Legislators: Tom Abinanti, Jose Alvarado, Gordon Burrows, William Burton, Ken Jenkins, Judith Myers, Vito Pinto, Bernice Spreckman and Lyndon Williams.

Government Operations: Chair: Ken Jenkins; Lois Bronz, Wm. Burton, Gordon Burrows, Peter Harckham, James Maisano, Judith Myers, Vito Pinto, Martin Rogowsky and Bernice Spreckman

IN ATTENDANCE: CEO: Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph **STAFF:** Louise T. Gantress, Chris Crane, Joanne Sold, Melanie Montalto, Barbara Dodds

Meeting called to order at 10:15.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Harckham the minutes for April 16, 2009 were approved.

Discussion

Donnovan Beckford of the Workforce Investment Bureau and Carlos Moran of DSS spoke on stimulus standards that make it difficult for Westchester residents to apply for youth job funding. TANIF customers qualify, but the income limits are set too low for youth jobs assistance. There are high rates of registration throughout the county, in Mt. Vernon, Peekskill, New Rochelle, and White Plains. Yonkers has applied for its own stimulus funding. The Bureau plans to add 300 additional youth for a total approximating 700. Requests for additional information were (1) job detail by sector and geography (2) Yonkers stimulus information (3) a list of contract agencies from the RFPs. The legislators recommended the WIB reach out to broaden the base and connect with local job fairs.

One Stop serves adults and dislocated workers without income qualification. They are forming sector partnerships and will begin meetings with BOCES and WCC and other training providers. They said they need to develop professional level skill training. They also use the NYS DOL as a partner to do job matching. The Task Force requested information on the RFPs.

Dr. Marjorie Glusker, VP/Dean of Continuing Education, assistant deans Ann Rubenzahl, Talbert Spence and Ted Nygreen made a presentation. Dr Joseph Hankin remained in the audience. WCC places workforce training as part of continuing education. Green jobs, emerging technologies and self-employment are being looked at in terms of curricula development. WCC is also interested in expanding its nursing program and providing a health care career ladder (they reported 748 applications for 40 spots). They plan to hold non-credit courses for certification with companies that will provide the certifying exam. The result of such classes will be qualified service personnel.

Energy is important also because 50% of staff will retire in a short time and the companies want qualified staff in operations, generation and distribution. WCC is working with Alfred Tech to develop curricula in green/clean energy. They are also working with the Business Council to identify and certify workers for this area.

In response to a question regarding health care funding the Task Force was told that those guidelines are not yet available. Also, the focus of WCC is on teaching, not research but some

younger instructors are looking at sustainable topics. Also, the state and federal governments have contradictory memos on infrastructure so WCC is sorting that out. WCC was requested to send briefs to the BOL.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM by motion of Martin Rogowsky and Ken Jenkins; CS adjourned by motion of Vito Pinto and William Burton; GO by motion of Vito Pinto and Martin Rogowsky.