

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

MEETING MINUTES

A teleconference meeting of the Florida CSSBMB, Employment & Economics Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, July 27, 2011.

Council Members Present:

Lois Scott, Chair
Matthew Gregory
Shila Salem
Ben Shirley
Eddy Regnier, Council Chair

Council Members Absent:

Gypsy Gallardo

Others:

Larry McIntyre
Holly Carson

First Agenda Item: Welcome

Ms. Scott welcomed and thanked everyone for being on the conference call and thereafter requested the roll call to begin.

Second Agenda Item: Roll Call

Roll call was executed by Council staff Tawanna Leven-Forbes.

Third Agenda Item: Opening Invocation

Invocation was not rendered.

Fourth Agenda Item: Call to Order

Ms. Scott called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Fifth Agenda Item: Introductions

Ms. Scott talked about one of the major responsibilities of the Council.

- To complete the Annual Report.
- Current status of black men and boys
- The improvements that has been made
- What the challenges are
- The Council's suggestion for improvement
- Submitting recommendations etc.

Sixth Agenda Item: Discussion on Annual Report Outline

Ms. Scott reviewed an outline that was included along with the agenda covering things she suggested that the committee should review.

- Problems that black men and boys face
- Describing the details of findings

- Reviewing historical and current data for unemployment rates and updated performance data for blacks in the state of Florida.

Ms. Scott talked about things that have been looked at that could prepare blacks for the workforce.

- Current status of improvements for WIA adult and youths, jobseekers, WT and FSET customers.
- Current status of challenges of education and basic skills, previous work experience and job-readiness and lack of access to employers.
- Make a recommendation to provide funding for a state special project to serve low income black males
- Market incentives to employers
- Engage local minority-owned businesses
- Increase access to high-quality careers and technical education in high schools etc.

Ms. Scott talked about the overall recommendations focusing on three core issues; the suggestions the committee would like to make that would improve the lot of black males as they enter the workforce or prepare for the workforce.

- Reduce unemployment
- Increase entered employment rates
- Improve training opportunities and training outcomes.

Seventh Agenda Item: Discussion on Outline Adjustments

Ms. Scott talked about what items to focus on to add in the Annual Report. She talked about looking into the social outcome or the employment outcome and how it related to education and what the committee can do to make improvements. Ms. Scott said that the outline could be used as a guide or template for other issues. She asked for member's feedback.

Chairman Regnier talked about the increase pattern of unemployment for black Americans and Hispanics in the last ten years. He talked about the reporting numbers and its accuracy.

Chairman Regnier talked about programs that involve youths and the economic downtown throughout the state of Florida.

Ms. Scott stated that in the report the figures are accurate. She said that she want to know if the format that she is presenting is appropriate for the Report. She talked about the statistics and said that many things are contributors to unemployment.

Eighth Agenda Item: Discussion About Areas to Address

Ms. Scott asked that the members follow up with information/research as follows:

Ms. Salem of the Department of Corrections talked about looking for ways to frame her information into the Annual Report.

- Job readiness services to individuals in correctional institutions
- Re-Entry strategies for black men and boys
- Faith-based institutions and reducing recidivism

Mr. Shirley of the Department of Children and Families talked about narrowing down the focus to view key points because of the amount of detailed information that is being asked.

- How do we address the issue of motivation black males to enter the workforce?
- Some of the issues that we have now are those who don't want to work, the one we can't get to and the hard to employ young adults who have a criminal record.
- Current statewide data on services offered through DCF (Food Stamps, Medicaid, Housing, etc.)

Mr. Gregory of the Department of Management Services talked about the area that he would like to focus on.

- Outreach to employers- How do we change their perspective? (i.e. shifting the focus from the "Have you been convicted of a crime?" stigma)
- Legality of questions asked

Ms. Scott asked that staff follow up with Gypsy Gallardo on getting the word out through social media regarding the availability of services to black men and boys.

Ninth Agenda Item: Discussion on Timelines

Ms. Scott talked about the possibility of meeting earlier to allow more time to put an outline together in August.

Tenth Agenda Item: Upcoming Meeting

Ms. Scott proposed that the subcommittee reconvene on **August 23rd** to discuss next steps. She said that the next scheduled meeting after that will be **September 14th**. Ms. Scott asked that Council staff to follow up and send out a meeting notice.

Eleventh Agenda Item: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.