

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 11, 2011

Panguitch, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Chair
Carolyn White
Commissioner Clare Ramsay
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff
Mayor Connie Robinson
Commissioner Douglas Heaton
Commissioner Denny Drake
Brian Cottam

REPRESENTING

Beaver County Commissioner Representative
Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Mayor Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Washington Co. Commissioner Representative
Southern Utah University

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marreen Casper
Ellen Schunk
Mike Empey
Jan Thompson
Virginia Higbee
Roxanna Johnson
Ken Sizemore
Sherri Dial
Diane Lamoreaux

Senator Hatch's Office
Senator Lee's Office
Congressman Matheson's Office
Department of Workforce Services
Southern Utah University - Head Start
Southern Utah University - Head Start
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mark Yardley, Excused
Mayor Jerry Taylor
Ken Platt, Excused
Alan Adams
Mayor Nina Laycook, Excused
Wendy Allan
Mayor Tom Hirschi
LuAnne Forrest
Frank Lojko

Beaver County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Schools Representative
Iron County Schools Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative
Kane County Schools Representative
Washington Co. Mayor Representative
Washington Co. Schools Representative
Dixie State College of Utah

I. MINUTES MARCH 9, 2011 - REVIEW & APPROVE

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Chair, welcomed those in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Mayor Mark Yardley, Beaver County Commissioner Representative; Mr. Ken Platt, Garfield County Schools Representative; and Mayor Nina Laycook, Kane County Mayor Representative.

Chairman Johnson indicated that a quorum was not present to accept the minutes and proceeded with non-action update agenda items.

II. COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM UPDATE

A. PUBLIC FORUMS RESULTS

Ms. Sherri Dial reported that the Five County Community Action Partnership held public forums in each of the five counties to gather information for planning community action services. These forums allow discussion and listing of issues as viewed by residents and their suggestions for solutions. Handouts were provided to introduce the public forums and to show data for each of the counties. She also noted that other agencies participate and provide information pertinent to their specific programs. Questions are asked to collect demographics through utilization of a clicker system. Breakout sessions were conducted to discuss difficult issues and/or challenges faced in specific areas. Overall major issues voiced at the forums included: **1) Transportation--** Need for more affordable means of transportation to employment centers, medical appointments, shopping, etc.; **2) Homelessness--** Increase in homeless individuals and families; **3) Mental Health Issues--** Southwest Behavioral Health Center generally is the only provider and does not accept health insurance for payment ; **4) After School Programs--** Need for organized activities for middle school-aged children that are not involved in sporting activities. It appears that the major issue in Washington remains transportation to various locations.

Ms. Dial reported that community action program funding is slated for cuts in the 2012 federal budget. She provided a copy of correspondence from Governor Gary Herbert to Senator Orrin Hatch in support of the Community Services Block Grant program. The letter is copied to other Utah Senators and Congressmen.

B. VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) REPORT

Ms. Dial reported that the VITA program provides free tax assistance to those who might not otherwise file income taxes. Southern Utah University and Dixie State College have been very supportive of this program. Volunteer income tax preparers submitted 2,284 tax returns this year for a total of \$5 million dollars that comes back to the five county area. There are 130 volunteers in the five county area who provide income tax assistance at various locations.

C. NEEDS PRIORITIZATION

Ms. Dial reported that the Human Services Council is a tripartite board made up of public and private sector community leaders and low-income individuals who govern each local Community Action Partnership. The primary mission of this board is to assist individuals, families and the entire community to be responsive to the needs and interest of the poor by mobilizing resources aimed at providing more self-sufficiency for these individuals. Each of the five counties has a county commissioner, at-large community and low-income representative that serve on this Board.

This Board met yesterday and prioritized community needs for the five county area as follows: **1) Employment--** In all counties; **2) Education--** To foster more productive jobs; **3) Substance Abuse--** As unemployment increases, there is a direct correlation with increased substance abuse; **4) Case**

Management/Information and Referral-- Ability to connect persons to resources through case management; **5) Housing and Homelessness**-- The point-in-time survey was conducted in January which showed a dramatic increase in homelessness in Washington and Iron counties; **6) Aging**-- Issues dealing with the aging population; **7) Youth Programs**-- Need for programs throughout the five county area; **8) Transportation**-- Need for additional transportation services throughout the region; and **9) Child Care**-- Lack of trained child care providers for youth with disabilities. It was noted that the Human Services Council prioritization of community needs will be presented to the Steering Committee in June for ratification.

III. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE

No representative in attendance to provide update.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES UPDATE

Ms. Jan Thompson, DWS, announced that a retirement open house is scheduled for Jolene Costigan at the Panguitch office tomorrow and Board members are invited to attend. In accordance with the legislative veto override, all offices will be changing back to a five day work week effective in September. This will mean big changes throughout the service area and will likely impact smaller county offices. A copy of area county fact sheets was provided to Board members. This information is also available on the DWS website. These profiles provide the latest preliminary population numbers from the 2010 U.S. Census, labor force, income and wages, sales and building, demographics of citizens, largest employers and race/ethnicity for each of the counties. This is one tool available to assist local officials and employers.

Mr. Sizemore made an observation that a lot of the demographic information is obtained from the American Communities Survey. This data does not have the best confidence level and can vary by about 8% higher or lower. The survey information is collected at more frequent intervals but it is not as accurate as long-form Census results in past decades.

V. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY REGIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Brian Cottam reported that their office is in the midst of moving to another location on campus. He introduced Ms. Virginia Higbee and Roxanna Johnson, SUU Head Start, and asked that they provide a program update.

Ms. Virginia Higbee provided an overview of the Head Start program. When the program was established in the five county region it only served six families. The program now serves 440 families and has offices throughout the five county region. Staff are dedicated to providing service to low income children and families. Funding is channeled directly from the federal government to Southern Utah University. The grant totals \$2.9 million dollars and requires a 20 percent match which is obtained through in-kind services provided to the program. The central office is located in Cedar City and there are 15 center sites throughout the region. Breakfast and lunch are served at each center on a daily basis. The program requires that each child receive a dental and medical exam. Parents are actively involved in the program and make recommendations to the Board. All teachers must have Associate or Bachelor degrees. The centers are mainly rented on a lease basis, but in a

few cases have been donated to the program. Eligibility to participate in this program is determined by income and family size. However, they can serve 10% of clients that are over income. Because Escalante's population is less than 1,000, they are able to serve anyone regardless of their income level. There is currently a waiting list of 120 in Washington County and 75 in Cedar City.

Roxanna Johnson invited Board members to visit any of the Head Start classrooms to observe after August 24th when the centers will be reopened. She reviewed the Head Start Child Development and Early Intervention Framework subjects that are required to be taught. She noted that it is not just a childhood development program but a program which works with parents and the community. The program begins with the idea that parents are the best teachers. Each Head Start program in the United States has a set of component/performance standards that staff is required to follow. The SUU program has developed their own curriculum based on coverage of all items on the learning framework wheel. Individualized student plans are developed and followed to evaluate each student's present abilities and progress made through participation in the program. The program mandates that services are provided to the most at risk and those with the highest poverty levels. The program tries to build a relationship with parents to influence their child. There have been some amazing ideas provided by parents that have been incorporated into the curriculum. The program serves 3-4 year old children and information from the program follows children through kindergarten. She reviewed an example of the core record chart used for tracking physical development and health issues.

VI. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE UPDATE

No representative available to provide update.

VII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office, reported that everything is about the federal budget these days. As everyone is likely aware, a budget resolution was passed for the remainder of FY 2011. The next big issue that is looming is the necessity to raise the debt limit and authority to borrow. House leadership is talking about funding cuts in the trillions of dollars, not billions. The Congressman anticipates that there will be funding cuts across the board in all programs. Constituents are calling for budget cuts but at the same time are trying to protect specific programs from these cuts. The debt limit discussion may be as far out as August. He reported that Congressman Matheson is seeking a co-sponsor for a bill associated with rural water development. This legislation is aimed at protecting small communities from having to comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that are very difficult to implement with limited staff resources.

Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that Senator Hatch voted against the resolution to fund Planned Parenthood and also voted to block concurrent funding for the health care bill. The Senator is sponsoring SB-904 Jobs Act of 2011 intended to improve jobs, opportunity, benefits and services for unemployed Americans. House Resolution 1745 has also been introduced to address these issues. The bill would provide more flexibility to states with unused unemployment funds. Senator Hatch and staff members are still dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in terms of rules that allow those agencies to regulate almost any type of water. New rules are being released for a 60-day comment period. She encouraged Board members to respond to this very important issue. Senator Hatch sits on the Senate Finance Committee

and is pushing discussions about Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. These programs need to be included in budget discussions because no amount of funding cuts to domestic spending will balance the budget.

Ms. Ellen Schunk, Senator Lee's Office, reported that the federal budget and debt ceiling are the major issues of debate. Senator Lee also feels that in order to raise the debt limit there must be significant budget cuts and these must be addressed at the same time. In terms of the immigration debate, he prefers a piecemeal approach that focuses first on border control, reforming the immigration process and the need to end birthright citizenship. The Senator also voted against Planned Parenthood funding. He believes that basic reform of the Social Security program is required and over a period of time the retirement age needs to raise.

VIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Mr. Sizemore presented one out-of-state travel authorization for consideration. Because the Steering Committee approved submission of an application for Mobility Management, Curt Hutchings is recommending that a staff person assigned to this effort be allowed to attend the Community Transportation Association EXPO in Indianapolis on June 6-7, 2011. This will be at no cost to the Association of Governments as costs will be picked up under a scholarship that is available through Utah's Urban/Rural Specialized Transportation Association (URSTA).

It was the consensus of the Board for staff to proceed with travel arrangements for the individual assigned to this planning effort.

C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (PCIFB) APPLICATIONS

No applications for review.

D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE

None.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sizemore announced that representatives of the Forest Service, BLM and State Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue of how interagency fire responders conduct and manage scheduled burns. Staff has identified Wednesday, June 15th for an afternoon session in Cedar City. Further details including the location will be provided prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Denny Drake announced that the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board will hold their retreat at Brian Head on June 8-9, 2011. He encouraged Board members to contact him to discuss any issues of concern that need to be discussed. It is his intent to bring forth one item of concern which is the interest rate charged to non-producing counties for CIB loans. Jurisdictions in producing counties typically receive grants, other jurisdictions receive anywhere from zero percent to two percent for marginally producing counties. Whereas, loans to non-producing counties are typically set at four percent. Mr. Sizemore requested that Commissioner Drake voice support for continuation of the Regional Planning Program which funds a planner at the AOGs. It was noted that this has proven to be very beneficial and future funding needs to be secured to keep the program functional.

Mr. Sizemore announced that the next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2011 in Kanab at the Kane County Commission Chambers. He also noted that an Executive Committee meeting will be held that same day beginning at 10:00 a.m. to discuss budget revisions and other necessary items. This is an unusual year for development of budgets with all of the funding uncertainties. It may be necessary to use budget numbers from last year and make budget revisions as funding is secured. It appears that some reductions in force may result from funding cuts. The RSVP program funding has been cut 20% nationwide and other programs also received cuts.

IX. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Commissioner Johnson indicated that no areawide clearinghouse reviews were submitted for review.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.