



AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #12: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Governors Economic Crisis Strike Force is preparing to hold a series of regional meetings over the next few weeks to advance the delivery of workforce services to citizens across the Commonwealth. Attached is a letter from Patrick O. Gottschalk, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and Daniel G. LeBlanc, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Workforce, providing details on the Economic Crisis Strike Force and the regional meetings to be held in Hampton Roads on April 30th and May 21st.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

April 7, 2009

Dear Colleague:

As we work to develop programs and services to meet the needs of citizens negatively impacted by the overwhelming numbers of layoffs and closings in recent months, we would like to take the opportunity update you on the Commonwealth's response to this very difficult situation.

On February 6, 2009, Governor Kaine deployed an Economic Crisis Strike Force to develop strategies for ensuring the rapid delivery of services to Virginians in need including economic development assistance, social services, unemployment insurance services, job search assistance, and education and training services. The Strike Force held its first meeting on February 17, 2009 and set forth in motion a plan to create a statewide response that makes available as many resources as possible to citizens across the Commonwealth.

In order to achieve this objective, the Strike Force approved the creation of several work groups that have since met to develop strategies to improve and enhance service delivery. These groups included a Rapid Response/Job Fairs team, a Job Services team to enhance the UI Interface Process, a Health Coverage group to identify ways to expand insurance coverage for displaced workers, a team to assist returning veterans and Guard members as they transition back into the workplace, and an Assessment and Training Group to coordinate assessment and training resources and to explore grant funding opportunities available to communities.

During a subsequent Strike Force meeting on March 27th meeting, we were pleased to learn that these teams have made considerable progress since mid-February and have already begun to improve the UI Interface Process, develop legislative and grant funding proposals to expand COBRA coverage, and identify additional opportunities for worker assistance available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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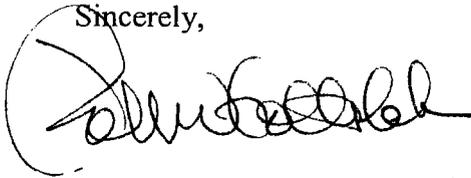
HRPDC

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While these efforts are significant, we would like to enhance the scope of the Strike Force activities through direct regional outreach to communities across Virginia. As part of this approach, we ask that you join the discussion, beginning with a series of regional Strike Force meetings that will begin in mid April. Please find attached a schedule outlining the dates and times for these meetings. In the event that you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade at 804-786-7831.

Sincerely,



Patrick O. Gottschalk
Secretary of Commerce and Trade



Daniel G. LeBlanc
Senior Advisor to the Governor for
Workforce



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Daniel G. LeBlanc
Senior Advisor for Workforce

Wednesday, April 08, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Workforce Investment Board Directors
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Chief Local Elected Official Chairs
Two- and Four Year Educational Institution Leaders
Workforce and Economic Development Stakeholders

FROM: Economic Crisis Strike Force
Office of Governor Timothy M. Kaine

SUBJECT: Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force Regional Meetings Schedule

In order to advance the delivery of workforce services to citizens across the Commonwealth, the Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force is preparing to hold a series of regional meetings over the next several weeks. We would like to invite you to attend one of the sessions within your local workforce area.

Please find attached a schedule of meeting dates, times, and locations on page two of this memorandum. **Please note: the time for the Richmond/Metro/Tri-City Areas Regional Meeting (WIAs 9/10 & 15) is now 1pm. Also the address for the Norfolk Area Regional Meeting (WIA 16) has been corrected.**

Please forward this information to the chief local elected officials, mandatory and optional workforce center partners, workforce investment board members, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, two- and four year educational institutions and other workforce stakeholder organizations in your local workforce area.

In the event that you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade at (804)-786-7831 or the Office of the Senior Advisor to the Governor for Workforce at (804) 692-0135.

The Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force Regional Meetings Schedule

Richmond/Metro/Tri-City Areas Regional Meeting (WIAs 9/10 & 15)

Date: April 16, 2009
Time: 1-2:30 pm
Location: John Tyler Community College
Bird Hall, Room B124
13101 Jefferson Davis Highway, Chester, VA 23831-5316

Roanoke & Lynchburg Regional Meeting (WIAs 3 & 7)

Date: April 24, 2009
Time: 10-11:30 am
Location: Virginia Western Community College
Whitman Auditorium
3099 Colonial Ave, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

South Western Virginia Regional Meeting (WIAs 1 & 2)

Date: April 27, 2009
Time: 10:00-11:30 am
Location: Southwest Virginia Community College
724 Community College Road, Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

Hampton Area Regional Meeting (WIA 14)

Date: April 30, 2009
Time: 10-11:30 am
Location: Thomas Nelson Community College
PWDC Conference Center, Room 1302-03
99 Thomas Nelson Dr, Hampton, VA 23666

Prince William County Area Regional Meeting (WIA 11)

Date: May 1, 2009
Time: 10-11:30 am
Location: Northern Virginia Community College
Theater
15200 Neabsco Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22191-4099

Norfolk Area Regional Meeting (WIA 16)

Date: May 21, 2009
Time: 10-11:30 am
Location: Tidewater Community College
TCC Roper Performing Arts Center
340 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23510-1910

Martinsville/Danville Regional Meeting (WIA 1)

Date: May 28, 2009
Time: 10-11:30 am
Location: Patrick Henry Community College
Theater
645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24115