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NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF FAITH BASED & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

MINUTES November 19, 2008

Meeting Date, Time & Place: November 19, 2008 at 8:00 AM, Job Service North Dakota, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Members Present: Leann Bertsch, Bette Grande, Alan Klein, Senator Tim Mathern, Joan Ehrhardt (for Carol Olson)

Members Absent: Cynthia Lindquist, Carol Olson, and Brad Williams

Ex Officio Members Present: Jerry Houn (for Jim Hirsch)

Staff Present: Jerry Houn and Cheryl Leach

CALL TO ORDER:

Opening Remarks & Introductions: Alan Klein in place for Brad Williams opened the meeting by welcoming all the committee members and introduced Cheryl Leach, Executive Assistant for the Workforce Development Division.

Administrative Announcements: Jerry Houn gave an update on Jim Hirsch's medical condition who could not attend the meeting due to recent back surgery. Alan Klein reminded members that travel vouchers are available and to see Cheryl after the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Alan Klein asked for a motion to approve the November 19, 2008 agenda.

Motion: Senator Tim Mathern moved to approve the agenda as presented, motion seconded by Bette Grande. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Alan Klein requested a motion for approval of the June 11, 2008 minutes.

Motion: Senator Tim Mathern moved to approve the June 11, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Bette Grande. All in favor. Motion carried.

CHAIRS REPORT:

Joint Retreat Update: Jerry Houn reported that the retreat was held in Medora and opened up the floor for comments from the members that attended the Retreat. Bette Grande stated that the main focus is to match up job openings with potential workers and what are the kinds of educational barriers or challenges. Bette Grande mentioned that she didn't see a conclusion or what direction they should take. It was nice to brainstorm, but there was no outcome. There were no answers to what kind of changes to make. The idea would be for that group to be given a recommendation to the legislature. Bette stated her concern as to why we would turn to government to solve business problems. Government is not going to solve the business and education problems. There were two legislative interim committees represented at this retreat and their discussion was that of the business aspect of things that need to be changed or done. Jerry Houn pointed out that what we look for in the Retreat is what could be done as a group to help with these issues and problems, or work toward solving some of these problems. Jerry mentioned that Dave Ellingson of the Youth Development Council did a report for Jim Hirsch and copies of that report could be distributed if interested.

Jerry Houn stated that Senator Grindberg is going to introduce a Bill to increase the funding for the Internship Program from \$600,000 to \$1.2 million. This is what came out of that meeting. The question remains, "is there something that the Faith-Based members can do that may be able to help solve some of the problems". Alan Klein asked the members what they felt the Faith-Based group came away with from the Retreat. Bette Grande stated that she felt the group received nothing to work with. She expressed there is nothing to work with off any of the discussion. She stated that her concern is that the Faith-Based Initiative Committee has done nothing; "what is our goal and what is our objective, and have we met any of those objectives that have been written down before". Bette mentioned that Brad Williams had brought the question to Jerry Houn and Jim Hirsch and there was an answer back, but the answer back didn't answer the question asked, there may have been a misunderstanding of the question.

Grant Writing Training: Alan Klein credited the committee for promoting the grant writing workshops. Jerry Houn agreed that as part of his requirement with the State Commission, he will be doing Town Hall meetings every year before the

announcement of the funding. What Jerry chose to do this year was to spend time talking about the Faith-Based Initiatives and State Commission, but the vast majority of time was spent discussing general grant writing.

Jerry Houn discussed what his responsibilities are with the Grant Writing Training and mentioned that there are over 150 organizations that are Faith-Based that are on the e-mail list and over 260 that are on the non-profit list as well as 300 on the school district list. An email was sent out asking if he should do grant writing for just specifically the AmeriCorps Grants in one of the six towns listed, and if so, which one would you attend. There were 78 responses to this e-mail and it is estimated that 12-15 of those are faith-based. Jerry stated that he is trying to reach out and educate the faith-based group. One of the goals he is trying to accomplish is to educate the Faith-Based on how to write applications and also to encourage them to apply and not to shy away from funding due to their fear of an audit. Jerry mentioned that there have been six workshops in just general grant writing, and there has been a positive response requesting the grant writing.

Alan Klein asked if any churches out of the six workshops received an invitation to attend. Jerry agreed that the churches were included in the invitations and that over 42 attended the workshops and 32 of those were from various organizations, a mix of faith-based and school districts. Bette Grande asked if there was a breakdown of the organizations. Jerry responded that that he doesn't have a breakdown at this time; the email that was sent didn't request if they are faith-based, non-profit, or school district. Jerry mentioned that he received some information from USDA and HUD as to the organizations they had on their list as faith-based and non-profit. He is also working with DPI to get the school district list and NDA&O to get the non-profit. Jerry mentioned that it is going to be a slow process. We have to continue to work to acclimate the faith-based into the environment. Jerry mentioned that the faith-based organizations are developing the 501(C)3 status and our biggest faith-based organization that is receiving federal funds from our state is Lutheran Social Services. Alan Klein stated that the intent is to move beyond Lutheran Social Services and work closer with the churches. Senator Mathern asked why we don't have a list of every church in North Dakota and why we haven't contacted the ND Council of Churches to request a list. Jerry mentioned that he has over 100 emails from faith-based organizations and most are churches, and he is currently working on a completing a list. Bette Grande expressed concern that the committee started out on a good path a year ago when Dr. Dwelle came in and spoke about research with the churches and parish nurse programs. He laid it out step by step and we never heard another word again. Bette expressed that we don't do a good enough job identifying who we are. The name is not out there. We don't do enough in putting out facts that as a state government we have agreed that Faith-Based Initiatives and Faith-Based Community Groups are important and that they deserve an opportunity with grant writing. Senator Tim Mathern stated that there is a two-fold responsibility; 1) it wasn't properly funded in terms of setting it up in the beginning, and 2) the contacts with churches. This message is having a tough time getting through. We need to develop a method so that the churches know that there are

these resources. Leann Bertsch suggested that this group could identify some of those opportunities that fit the mission that could supplement already tight budgets. It may not necessarily be money through North Dakota, but grants that are out there. Leann Bertsch gave an example of the 2nd Chance Act. They have a lot of opportunities for individuals affected by incarceration. We could help research and help identify the availability that may not be obvious for those organizations. Jerry Houn suggested that the most effective way to utilize our time would be to let those organizations come to us and then we do the research.

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE:

Senator Tim Mathern mentioned that in tab 2 of the agenda items, the Indiana Faith-Based Advisory Council has a listing of information that the Faith-Based Council can do (i.e., Voucher Program, Direct Grant Recipients, Reimbursement, Non-cash Assistance, Tax Credits, and USA Freedom Corps Participants). Different kinds of programs that Faith-Based organizations are in. Individuals need input from other sources and examples of what is being done right now by other individuals in other states with other organizations. Senator Mathern suggested we find a list of every church that received a grant and give that list to all of the churches in North Dakota. Bette Grande stated that we are not meeting the needs of the organizations according to the bylaws. Maybe we need to make an adjustment to the bylaws or adjust ourselves. Senator Mathern stated that there is definitely some confusion on what our objective is and we need to revisit the issue and put that item on the Agenda for the April meeting. This committee also needs to think about what guidance we can give to Jerry and his team? What are we expecting that they could do assertively that could get the word out. Jerry Houn mentioned to the committee that at the last meeting the members were to provide a list of faith-based organizations within the member's communities. Jerry was to receive five names from each member and thus far has received 12 names from two people.

Jerry reviewed tabs 2 & 3 of the agenda indicating that there is publication out in North Dakota that Faith-Based organizations did get some funding, including federal funding. Some of the information shows the State of Indiana and the Faith-Based Initiatives going on there. We are showing that we can reach out and let people know there is potential for funding.

Jerry mentioned that Brad Williams had asked that a packet be put together regarding basic information on sister programs to AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve, & Senior Corp Programs. Jerry has put together some screen prints of different information from fact sheets regarding the number of members, hours served, and the amount of dollars available.

COMMITTEE PLANNING AND PRIORITIES:

Alan Klein mentioned that the committee needs to identify clear directives of what the priorities are and what the committee is going to ask Jerry and his team to

accomplish. Representative Bette Grande addressed Senator Mathern if there is anything that the members need to address or be ready to address, and should this committee give any direction as to what we want to do.

Senator Mathern mentioned that at the last meeting the committee authorized that Brad Williams negotiate with the department the budget for the next session. We will need to find out what he learned.

Representative Bette Grande expressed concern with the budgeting portion and do we know what we can be spending the dollars on. An increase was asked for with the larger committee, but where is our authority with this small committee. We want to get this program running with a matching grant program that can come out of this committee. How and what can we do to allow us an opportunity to start working with the church communities in getting them started so they don't have to go through a massive federal grant program every time we want them to do anything. We want them to be able to work with our local small group in getting them started.

ACTION PLANS:

- **Bring the Bylaws to the April meeting for review;**
- **Members need to discuss the priorities of the committee and establish clear directives Jerry can follow;**
- **Jerry will reach out to each of the organizations rather than waiting for them to come to us;**
- **Jerry will continue with the Grant Writing Workshops.**
- **Jerry will contact the ND Council of Churches in trying to find a list of churches and continue to reach out to the faiths that want to visit with him.**

ADJOURNMENT: Alan Klein adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Representative Bette Grande moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Leann Bertsch. All in favor. Motion carried.