

**Miami-Dade County
Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)**

Dr. Antonio Jorge, Chairman

111 NW 1 Street – 6th Floor
Friday, August 22, 2008
1:30 pm

A G E N D A

- | | |
|---|---|
| Call to Order | Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC |
| Welcome and Introduction | Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC |
| Approval of Minutes | Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC |
| OTHER ITEMS | |
| A) Chairman's Update | Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC |
| B) New Developments | Jennifer Glazer-Moon, Director OSBM |
| C) Reporting on Social Equity Efforts | Dr. Lipner, Member, SEDC Dr. Capp, Executive Director, Community Advocacy |
| D) Discussion – "Summit on Social Equity" | Dr. Capp, Executive Director, Community Advocacy |
| F) Report – Economic Conditions | Dr. Robert Cruz, Chief Economist, OSBM |
| G) Public Comments | General Public |
| H) Next Meeting Date | September 19, 2008 |
| I) Agenda Topics for September 19 th meeting | Jennifer Glazer-Moon, Director OSBM |
| ADJOURNMENT | Chairman |

Agenda Attachments:

**Miami-Dade County
Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)**

Dr. Antonio Jorge, Chairman

111 NW 1 Street – 6th Floor
Friday, September 19, 2008
1:30 pm

A G E N D A

Call to Order

Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC

Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC

OTHER ITEMS

A) Chairman's Update

Dr. Jorge, Chairman, SEDC

B) Reporting on Social Equity Efforts

Dr. Lipner, Member, SEDC

C) Presentation – Miami-Dade County School Board

- Dr. Lourdes Rovira
- Javier Bray
- Frank de Vann

D) Public Comments

General Public

E) Next Meeting Date

October 17, 2008

F) Agenda Topics for October 17th meeting

Jennifer Glazer-Moon, Director
OSBM

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman

Agenda Attachments:

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008
111 NW 1st Street – 6th Floor
1:30 p.m.**

Members Present

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. William S. Atkins; Dr. German Munoz; Reinaldo Azan; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Dr. Jesus Permuy; Frank De Varona; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Professor Elisa Moncarz; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez.

Miami-Dade County Staff and Others in Attendance

Dr. Robert Cruz (OSBM); Manuel Armada (Planning & Zoning); Ines Beecher (OCA); Jorge Fernandez (OSBM); Norma Roig (OCA); Anita Gibboney (OSBM); Bob Schwarzreich (Planning and Zoning); Reinaldo Valdes (MDC CRB) Amanda Jayska (OSBM); Robert Kirschbaum (OSBM); Felipe Rivero (OCED); Pamela Scales (OCED); Elsie Douge (OCED) and Dennis Wrinn (OCED).

Member Excused Absence

Dr. Bernadette West; Dr. Pedro Pellet; Dr. Larry Capp; Dr. Kenneth Lipner and Dr. Willie Williams

Members Unexcused Absences

Michael Lavin and Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo

Call to Order – Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Jorge opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and began by asking the attendees to briefly introduce themselves. Dr. Jorge then asked if there were any excused absences at today's meeting. Mr. Wrinn cited the names and the reason given by the members who had phoned or e-mailed him asking to be excused. Dr. Jorge then made a motion for approval of last month's meeting minutes. No amendments or changes to the minutes were stated by the members and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Jorge informed the attendees that he had been informed by Mr. Fernandez of OSBM that Mr. José Cintrón, Director of OCED, will not be able to attend the meeting and make his presentation, as originally scheduled. Dr. Jorge indicated that he forwarded a letter to the County Manager to reiterate and clarify once more the goal of the County administrative structure to be committed to the mission and work of the SEDC. Dr. Jorge added that a presentation by Tom Marko of the County Executive Office regarding "Efficiencies in Development Process" is on the meeting agenda, but Mr. Marko was not in attendance at the meeting.

Invited Guests from the School Board

A lengthy discussion started when Mr. De Varona suggested the names of the guests to be invited from the School Board for a presentation to the SEDC on the issues confronting the Miami-Dade County public schools. Mr. De Varona recommended a guest by the name of Ms. Lourdes Rovira (a former superintendent of Curriculum) who in his opinion, can give the Council a very informative view of today's problems facing the School Board. Although, Ms. Rovira was never principal of a particular school, she knows the districts and the problems and can address them very well.

As we know, the rate of dropouts has significantly increased in the past years, and Mr. De Varona believes that students coming from dysfunctional families constitute the highest number in the rate of dropouts. The rate of dropouts is averaging almost 90% today. Also, it was stated that the low income families who sometime have to work two jobs to make ends meet do not have sufficient time to supervise their children. This is another factor in the increase of dropout students. One of the Council indicated that members that not all students coming from low income families and distressed areas drop out from school. It is rather based on the will of the student to learn. Dr. Atkins added that in a household of four kids, three do not make it and one goes all the way to the top, therefore, there are exceptions to the rule. Dr. Espino was also of the same opinion as Dr. Atkins. She stated her own personal experience based on the family she comes from and added that these problems and said that this did not prevent her from reaching the top.

Mr. De Varona added that in a lot of cases, the parents do not offer their children the necessary support due to either a lack of interest or lack of time. He illustrated his statement by stating that students coming from low or distressed areas who have had a great achievement and deserving of an award, no parents or family are ever present at the award ceremony to support the student. When the parents are questioned about their absence, most of them state that they do not have the time to participate. On the other hand, the students from the wealthier schools who have had a great achievement, are always entirely surrounded and supported by their family members. Most members of the family are often present at the school ceremony to offer their support and congratulate the students.

Dr. Jorge interfered to say that this is a very complicated matter. There are several different aspects to the problem. This problem must be taken into consideration seriously if improvements are to be made to the rate of poverty in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Jorge also stated that he really does not know the root causes of the situation in Miami-Dade County, but that it would be very useful if Dr. Capp could present an overview of the issues related to the distressed and/or low income areas in Miami. The Council members also referenced other issues which, in their opinion, could also affect the increase in the rate of dropouts. These issues were:

1. Poverty
2. Immigration
3. Moving out of Miami
4. Race issue
5. Keeping family together

At the end of the discussion, Mr. De Varona mentioned the possibility that Javier Bray of Miami-Dade County School Board could make a presentation to the Council at the September meeting. Dr. Jorge concluded by saying that in order to get a good understanding of this issue, the problems have to be analyzed at great length. The Council will continue to focus on this issue.

Economic News Briefing

Dr. Cruz gave an overview of the County Manager's report entitled "Economic News Briefing" which details today's economic trends in the world of oil prices and their impact on the national and local economy. The economic issues covered in the report are:

- Rise in crude oil prices affecting the US economy
- Fed halts decline in short-term rates over inflation worries
- Rise in local consumer prices
- Latest employment data showing continued job losses in Miami-Dade County

Dr. Cruz stated that the recent rise in oil prices over the last few months has directly affected the price of gasoline, diesel fuel and other energy products. He explained how demand affects the price per barrel of oil. The underlying currents of global supply and demand suggest that gasoline prices and the cost of energy in general will continue to rise. The rise in crude oil prices is directly affecting the US Economy and raising global concerns. The County is monitoring these developments to track their impacts on the local construction and real estate industries. One of the Council's members suggested that alternative sources of energy should be the main focus in order to bring relief to the current situation.

Dr. Cruz explained the situation of today's housing market as far as the rate of foreclosure and the impact on the economy. The two main lending institutions, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, bankruptcy status (although being rescued by the US Government) has severely affected the economy as far as the housing market is concerned. Today, most banks today are losing money because the lenders cannot repay their debt. Dr. Cruz does not foresee any relief in the near future. The United States, he said, must find alternative means of energy in order to reduce the demand in oil. Dr. Cruz indicated to the Council that he will keep them abreast of the economic issues in Miami-Dade County by e-mailing them all reports issued by his department.

Other Items

Mr. Fernandez stated that the dates of the next three meetings will have to be changed because of conflict with Ms. Glazer-Moon's schedule. In addition, Mr. Fernandez stated that the 6th Floor Conference will not be available for the next three meetings should they be changed. The August meeting date, he added, will be changed to August 22 instead of August 15, as previously scheduled. Mr. Fernandez also indicated that the August meeting will be held in the 22nd Floor conference room. Dr. Jorge strongly objected to changing the dates of the Council meetings for the convenience of others. Dr. Jorge stated that the Council must follow the preset dates due to the fact that the Council members have other obligations and changing the meeting dates will affect the attendance at the Council meetings. Dr. Jorge finally agreed with the change in August and requested that the Council return to the previously scheduled dates after August for the remaining meetings.

Mr. Fernandez questioned Dr. Jorge about the agenda of the next meeting and it was stated that Mr. Marko and Mr. Cintrón will not need to present at the next meeting. Dr. Jorge stated although the Council does not have any pending matters for the next meeting, he expects Dr. Capp to join us at the August meeting. Also, Ms. Glazer-Moon and Dr. Cruz will brief the Council on matters of interest, as they usually do at each meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.