

MINUTES

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, April 17th, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

111 NW 1st Street, 6th Floor, Miami, FL 33128

Members Present

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. Brian Peterson; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Elisa Moncarz; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez; Dr. Francisco De Varona; Dr. Bernadette West; Jesus Permuy; Dr. Ken Lipner.

Member Excused Absences

Dr. Michael Lavin; Dr. Maria Espino; Dr. Willie Williams; Reinaldo Azan; Dr. Pedro Pellet; Dr. Gustavo Roig; Javier Marques; Pedro Diaz; Dr. Larry Capp, Dr. German Muñoz.

Member Absent

Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo.

Miami-Dade County Staff

Dr. Robert Cruz (OEDC); Robert Hesler (OEDC); Hardai "Dai" Junor (OEDC); Harold Young (MMAP); Keith Connon (OCA); Reinaldo Valdes (MDC-CRB); Ines Beecher (OCA); Bob Schwarzreich (DP&Z).

Guest:

Rosendo Castillo (proposed new member).

Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Jorge, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and a quorum was met.

The members of the Council and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jorge called for the approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2009 and March 17th, 2009 meetings.

Dr. Frank De Varona moved a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brian Peterson. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Jorge reported that the two new members Javier Marques, ex-officio and Dr. Pedro Diaz-Mendez were approved by the BCC on April 7, 2009; however, Pedro Diaz could not be present today and asked to be excused. The proposed new member Rosendo

Castillo name has been submitted for the BCC approval and will be on April 21st BCC Agenda.

Report on Social Equity Efforts

No report was made as Dr. Capp was unexpectedly delayed and unable to attend today's meeting.

Education Sub Committee Report

Dr. Peterson reported that the Committee (members: Dr. Frank De Varona, Dr. German Munoz (absent), Dr. Brian Peterson) met earlier in the day with Dr. Cruz being present. He handed out an expanded version of the Recommendations "Innovation Solutions to Miami-Dade County's K-12 Education System" that what was submitted last month. He said there were no objections to the expanded material but it was felt that it would be better to have tables and charts, educational statistics, historical trends indicated, specific from Miami Dade County public schools; also the name of the Recommendation will be different. He asked members if they have any substantive input, they can mail it to him so that it can be incorporated into the new document. He said he will do the revision according to the suggestions made and send the revised version to members via Dr. Cruz. He stated he will not be at the next meeting but the Council can approve it that time if they find it satisfactory.

Dr. Cruz reminded everyone to keep in mind the Sunshine Law and asked that all correspondence to and from members should be communicated through him.

Draft SEDC Presentation to BCC

Dr. Cruz referred to the discussion at the last meeting that a directive for this Council to do a monthly presentation to the BCC. On that note Dr. Jorge and himself prepared a draft presentation on the Socioeconomic Conditions in Miami-Dade County (a copy of a cover letter and the draft presentation is in handout package) to be made at the May 5th BCC meeting if it was delivered to the BCC Chairman in time for inclusion in the agenda. He briefly went through a summarized description: Mission and Focus of SEDC; 2008 SEDC Recommended Guiding Principles for Economic Development Policies, that the Council forwarded last year to the Commission. He said this Council always stressed that there are aspects of economic growth that are beyond GDP growth; employment growth, such as income disparity, income distribution and other social economic indicators. Income Distribution by Class; Housing Cost Burden by Income Class; Income disparities by Race and ethnicity. Disparities in educational attainment; and how can the county promote economic development?

Dr. Cruz asked members to email him their input, but at the same time they should keep in mind there is a time limit for the presentation which may be ten to fifteen minutes, and perhaps another five to ten minutes for questions and answers. He promised to send the revised version to members. Dr. Jorge asked members to be present at the BCC meeting on May 5th for the SEDC presentation.

Dr. Lipner spoke of maximizing linkages and stated that before Dr. Cruz as Chief Economist in Miami-Dade County, there was no entity in the county government that looked at economic policies. He mentioned there are individuals scattered around but

not necessarily unified. Dr. Moncarz commented that there is a need to validate asking for funds to assist with the studies.

Dr. Jorge said statistically speaking; he would like to know what big businesses we have attracted. He asked for a comparison on a Cost Benefit basis the cost of operation of the Beacon Council, vis-à-vis the number of large corporations attracted, the number of jobs created, and tax revenues generated.

Dr. Jorge said that everyone is in agreement that Income Distribution in Miami Dade is quite unequal. He recommended that the Council to do something about it by making some suggestions.

Dr. Rodriguez said for the record that some members tried long and hard to create an incubator, side by side an educational institutional where you had the human resources and the faculty, and the only thing needed was the location; but that was frowned upon and nothing became of it.

Dr. Cruz reported on progress made regarding an economic impact analysis study using the REMI model. This is the study that Dr. Salazar had requested over several years and that Dr. Salazar was working with him, Manny Armada and his staff from the Planning and Zoning Department. They originally looked at 21 industries, but have now completed the simulations with 70 industries. A report is being drafted and thought is being given to what additional studies should be done.

Dr. Jorge referred to a motion made on January 16th meeting – for a representative from OSBM to attend the SEDC meeting and report on progress of the Strategic Plan. Dr. Cruz said there was nothing new to report at this time; however, he will check with Paul Mauriello of OSBM to see if there is any updated information in the area of economic development and schedule for him to report to the Council.

Dr. Jorge asked that the Director of OCED to make a presentation to this Council. Dr. Cruz said he had contacted her deputy Peter McDougal specifically to talk about the Stimulus Package and CDBG supplemental allocation that is coming to the county as a result of the Federal Stimulus Package. A representative from OCED could not be at this meeting today but would be at the next meeting.

Dr. Cruz said he could ask Shalley Jones Horn, Director, OCED to be present at the meeting to give an overview of the department.

Sub Committee SEDC Work plan Report

In the absence of Dr. Maria Espino, Dr. Cruz reported that the Committee had not met since their last meeting. At that meeting it was the conclusion to define the mechanics of providing periodic reports to the commission as the vehicle for which SEDC would like to transmit its recommendations, its interaction with the Board. Dr. Lipner said part of the problem was they (Dr. Lipner, Dr. Capp, and Dr. Espino) had differences of opinion and did not resolve any of the issues. Dr. Cruz said he will ask Dr. Espino to set a meeting date.

Dr. Jorge suggested establishing an open line of communication with Chair Moss Chief of Staff because of the Chair's unavailability most of the time.

Dr. Jorge referred to a discussion on Economic Impact and Opportunity Cost at the March 20th meeting and asked if members would like to proceed on that topic. All were in agreement that the Council should proceed.

Dr. Jorge made a recommendation: The County should undertake the appropriate studies in order to determine appropriate cost and optimum resource allocation of investment resources devoted to public investment alternatives.

Dr. Moncarz motioned to accept the recommendation. Motion seconded by Dr. Lipner. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Agenda Topic for next Meeting

OCED overview and the new Director's view of the department's future.

How should the SEDC interact with the Beacon Council; and perhaps at the BCC May 19th meeting make a presentation.

Proposed Budget – Economic Development: Dr. Cruz will submit goals and objectives of last year.

Adjournment

Dr. Moncarz motioned for an adjournment. Seconded by Dr. West. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.