



Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions:

Chair Gonzalez welcomed everyone to the meeting. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Cheryl Gonzalez, **Chair** - (University of North Florida), Alison Jimenez, **Co-Chair** - (Dynamic Securities Analytics, Inc.), Rhett Frisbie (Department of Lottery), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (Wells Fargo Bank), Pamela Hart (Palm Beach County), George Owen (Regions Bank), Y. Lisa Colon Heron (Smith Currie & Hancock), Ben Harris (City of Tallahassee) and Dale Coxwell (Coastal Steel, Inc.). Also in attendance were Kevin Brown (DMS-Goods Bureau Chief), Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) staff Thad Fortune (MBE Administrator) and Denise Wright (Administrative Assistant I), who recorded the minutes.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Malik Ali (FMSDC), Carlos Rodriguez Maverick Constructors, Inc.), Anne-Marie Richards (Office Depot), Nancy Allen (Women's Business Development Council of Florida), Christine McMillon (Ensync Diversified Management Services, Inc.), Franklin Cross (City of Tampa) and Digvijay Gaekwad (Hotel Owner-Ocala & Gainesville).

Call In Guests: Nicole Mathis (USF) and Ken Larson (Department of Business and Professional Regulation).

Changes/Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Owens moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hart. The agenda was accepted and approved by the Council.

Adoption of Minutes from the May 2, 2012 Meeting:

Ms. Hart moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris. The minutes were accepted and approved by the Council.

Department of Management Services, OSD's Update: Thad Fortune, MBE Administrator.

- Mr. Fortune stated the Tallahassee MatchMaker took place on May 24, 2012, and for the very first time there were **431 attendees**. We had **378** of those attendees were minority women and service disabled veterans business enterprises, **38** State Agencies, **2** State Universities and **13** private sector companies. OSD partnered with the City of Tallahassee and Mr. Fortune thanked Mr. Harris and the City of Tallahassee for partnering with OSD. He stated the event was such a success that we have already been contacted by Leon County, the Tallahassee Housing Authority and a private sector company-BidNet that would like to co-sponsor the event next year.
- The Implementation of SB 922-Florida Veteran Business Enterprises-{FVBE} replaces Service Disable Veteran Business Enterprises-{SDVBE} starting July 1, 2012. We will still be certifying SDVBE, but the title of this program changes to FVBE and will be inclusive of war time veterans as well as disabled veterans. Mr. Fortune stated this is going to be an enormous task for OSD. They indicated there are over one million and a half war time veterans in the State of Florida. Even though they are not all in business, OSD will be conducting an intensive outreach program to inform these businesses of the opportunity they will have with the State of Florida.
- Mr. Fortune thanked Mr. Frisbie for his participation on the Mentor Protégé Committee and said his expertise is well needed. He stated we have three Mentor Protégé Agreements and hope to be increasing this since Mr. Kevin Brown has come on board with his extensive knowledge with the diversity programs and mentor protégé relationships.

- In July OSD will also conduct outreach on the Loan Mobilization Program. This program was a tool that was part of the One Florida Initiative. Mr. Fortune stated it takes the participation of the State Agencies and the minority business banks in order for this program to work. Mr. Harris asked if the Council could get information on the Mentor Protégé and the Loan Mobilization programs. Mr. Fortune will have Ms. Wright to send the criteria for both programs along with the minutes from this meeting.

Council Chair Update: Cheryl Gonzalez, Diversity Officer, University of North Florida.

- Ms. Gonzalez asked what can the Council do to be more affected for the State of Florida with respect to supplier diversity. She said OSD has had a decrease both in terms of budget and staff and increase in work.
- Ms. Gonzalez asked the Council to seriously consider directional changes where they won't have to keep being reactive but be proactive with respect to the State's mission of carrying out supplier diversity efforts and small business development efforts.
- Ms. Gonzalez submitted a proposal of Direct Support Organization (DSO) and asked the Council to review that proposal because she would like the Council's approval to continue exploring options that would give more help to the Office of Supplier Diversity. She also said she wants to rename it, where it says "in lieu of the Office of Supplier Diversity", basically the DSO will work with DMS as an autonomous entity from the standpoint of carrying out the mission where they will be able to enter into contracts, raise money, conduct programs and have outreach. The board will initially be the Council which gives the Council a steady opportunity to have a level of support and they can abdicate better.
- Ms. Loll stated the next step would be for the General Counsel's Office and Secretary Stewart to review the Proposal and give their feedback. She said once she get their feedback DMS can schedule a meeting.
- Ms. Jimenez asked for a motion to have a separate meeting to continue exploring the DSO Proposal. Ms. Melvin made a motion to continue exploring the Proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hart.

Stakeholder Commentary: Secretary Ken Lawson, Dept. of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR)

- DBPR is charged with accepting applications and providing licenses for various businesses and professions. They have a budget of approximately one hundred thirty million dollars and about 1,500 employees across the State. DBPR is entirely trust funded and do not receive funds from general revenue but they generate funds that goes to general revenue.
- DBPR is the agency charged with licensing and regulating businesses and professionals in the State of Florida, such as cosmetologists, veterinarians, real estate agents and pari-mutuel wagering facilities and they have various boards that create rules for these professions.
- DBPR regulates four major industries, which include alcoholic beverages and tobacco; condominiums, timeshares and mobile homes; hotels and restaurants and pari-mutuel wagering.
- The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco licenses the alcoholic beverage and tobacco industries, collects and audits taxes and fees paid by the licensees, and enforces the laws and regulation of the alcoholic beverage and tobacco industries.
- The Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Program safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state of Florida from injury due to the use of adulterated, contaminated, misbranded drugs, drug ingredients and cosmetics by administering the provisions of the Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act.
- DBPR has a call center and they've started a video conferencing program where they go out to various cities and put you on video camera to talk directly to someone in Tallahassee.

Committee Reports and Actions Requiring Votes (If Applicable):

- A. Budget and Legislative Recommendations:** NO REPORT.
- B. Internal Procedures/Bylaws:** NO REPORT.
- C. RET/Financial Markets and Institutions:** Ms. Melvin stated they continued to discuss the information they are going to submit to Ms. Gonzalez with their committee's definition of small businesses.
- D. RET/Legal:** NO REPORT.
- E. Strategic and Comprehensive Planning Committee:** NO REPORT
- F. Annual Report:** Ms. Jimenez stated they had a meeting discussing the general outline of the annual report and what new topics they will add to the annual report.
- G. State Agency Vendor Diversity (SAVD):** NO REPORT

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.