

URBAN WEATHERIZATION INITIATIVE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Stephen Konya

Attendees:

DCEO Staff: Stephen Konya, Charlene Raickett, James Pellum

Voting Board Members: Deborah Harrington, Percy Harris, Melissa Williams

Ex Officio Members: Representative Ken Dunkin, Donna-Hampton Smith, 5th District Chief of Staff, Representative Dave Winters, Senator Donne Trotter

Apologies:

Kurt Summers

Public Attendees:

Cheryl Calvin and Tonya Stigger-Black Wall Street Chicago, Van Vincent-VLV Development Corporation, Andrenika Murff-CEDA

Review/Approval of Minutes:

A motion was called to approve the January 21, 2011 meeting minutes pending Melissa William's feedback. Motion passed.

**General Update
(Information sessions, RFQ,
Working Groups):**

Charlene Raickett stated that information sessions promoting UWI's Weatherization Specialist RFQ were held in Springfield, Peoria, Palos Hills, Rockford, Chicago and Collinsville. DCEO's Regional Outreach Staff is working to facilitate an information session for Kankakee during the month of March, with Kankakee Community College as a possible site location.

Pre-award letters were sent to Home Energy Auditor awardees on February 15, 2011. DCEO staff will work to get systems in place to prepare and issue contracts.

Charlene Raickett notified the Board of the public's misunderstanding of the type of training curriculum to be used for the Weatherization Specialist grant. The public's confusion centers on whether or not Building Performance Institute (BPI), Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET)/Home Energy Rater (HERS) and/or Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) curriculum should be used to train weatherization specialist trainees. Going forward, Ms. Raickett suggested that the Board use the State's training certification standards as a template to develop UWI's weatherization specialist curriculum. She noted that the curriculum is currently in use at Lincoln-Land Community College, Wright Community College and UIC.

Donna Hampton-Smith requested to have minutes of previous meetings forwarded via e-mail so that she could be brought up to speed with UWI's progression to date. In addition, Ms. Hampton-Smith conveyed Representative Dunkin's extreme disappointment as it relates to the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus's plan to have training dollars disbursed in African-American communities for training opportunities. At the request of Stephen Konya, Ms. Hampton-Smith provided further clarification to Rep. Dunkin's concerns. Ms. Hampton-Smith stated that it was her understanding that training dollars were to be awarded to African-American organizations to provide training under this initiative. Mr. Konya indicated that once she reviews minutes and other relevant documents, Rep. Dunkin's concerns would be resolved. In addition, Mr. Konya suggested that Ms. Hampton-Smith follow-up with either Ms. Raickett or himself to get additional updates on UWI programs.

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Stephen Konya invited public attendees to introduce themselves and informed them that their comments and or concerns would be heard at the end of the meeting.

Percy Harris requested that DCEO follow up with the Governor's office regarding UWI Board appointments. He indicated that we are down to 3 voting members and that the board should be restored to fully capacity in order to maintain continuity and to move the initiative forward. Mr. Konya indicated that DCEO has and is currently working with the Governors office regarding UWI appointments. Mr. Harris noted that his term expires on March 1st and that he has been in communication with Senator James Clayborne and the Governor's office to this effect. Deborah Harrington noted that Mr. Harris was targeting former Board member Mr. Lester McKeever's 5 year term.

Marketing Plan/Logo: Board members reviewed the UWI brochure. A motion was called to approve the brochure with the necessary inclusions. Motion passed.

General Discussion: Stephen Konya provided the board with a UWI funding update. He noted that funding was identified through the Capital Bill and when the legal battle is over, additional funding will be indentified and UWI programs will move forward. Mr. Konya stated that he would keep the board apprised of funding updates.

Mr. Harris expressed concerns about funding and suggested that the Board start to look at census data and get systems in place to handle weatherization of homes once additional funding has been identified and secured.

Extensive conversation centered on the ILBC's intent surrounding the Urban Weatherization Initiative. Moving forward, the Board agreed to review and revisit UWI's RFQ/RFA evaluation criteria. Once additional funding is identified, the Board will move to allocate dollars for capacity building and/or technical assistance training for organizations that lack the required certifications and skills to deliver UWI training under this initiative.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, March 18, 2011 10am-12pm at JRTC/DCEO

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:15am by Stephen Konya

***Respectfully Submitted by
Charlene Raickett
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity***