

**Financial Literacy Council
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2007**

Council Members Present:

Paul Auslander, Liana Fernandez Fox, Cassandra J. Grayson, Doug Heinlen, Deidre Newton, Obdulio Piedra, Dulce Suarez-Resnick

Council Members Absent:

Richard George

Others Present:

Vanessa Benavides, Erbi Blanco-True, Dr. Joaquin Willis, Terry Lawler, Jeanette Wilk Yaeger, Lisa Miller, Joann Milord, Sarah Wykstra, Brian Ouellette, Karla Gottlieb, Matt McGrath, Debra Gauthier, Angelo Gonzalez, Denise Harrod, Darryl Reaves

The seventh meeting of the Financial Literacy Council was held on November 14, 2007, at the United Way of Miami-Dade in Miami. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Obdulio Piedra at 9:00 a.m. Roll was called by R. Jai Howard, Staff Director of the Financial Literacy Council.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Obdulio Piedra opened the meeting by welcoming Clinton Mueller and Walter Balsler (participating via telephone). Mueller is the Interim Director of the Florida Council on Economic Education (FCEE), replacing Jim DeSantis (former Council member). Mueller will be representing the FCEE on the Council until the vacancy has been officially filled. Balsler is the Director of Programs for FCEE.

Introduction of Council members and audience (please see above for list of those present).

Chairman Piedra acknowledged the United Way of Miami-Dade as the host for the meeting. He recognized Vanessa Benavides from the United Way and mentioned that she would give a tour of the facilities during the lunch break.

Piedra provided a recap of the October meeting of the Council which took place in Orlando. At that meeting the Council heard presentations from the Financial Planning Association of Florida, the Florida Credit Union League, the FCEE, the Florida Institute of CPAs, Rob Sansome of KidsWealth USA, and Lalita Booth from the Lighthouse for Dreams Financial Literacy Program at the University of Central Florida. Piedra reviewed the agenda for today's meeting, and introduced the first presenter

Collective Banking Group of Miami-Dade

Rev. Joaquin Willis, President of the Board of Directors for the CBG of Miami-Dade & Vicinity, Inc. described his organization as a local association of churches whose mission of economic empowerment for their members is achieved through established covenant relationships with six local banks. The relationships with the financial institutions provide financial literacy education, special discounts and services to members.

Human Services Coalition (HSC)

Brian Oullette – Chief Operating Officer & Karla Gottlieb – Director of Community Partnerships discussed the financial literacy efforts of the HSC. Their presentation included a list of Prosperity Centers in Miami, a description of the various services provided at the centers, and other Florida counties with Prosperity Campaigns. Ms. Gottlieb mentioned that resources are available for any group that is interested in establishing a Prosperity Campaign in their county.

Acción USA Florida

Sarah Wkystra and Joann Milord presented information on Acción USA Florida – a private, nonprofit organization that provides microloans to small businesses and a financial education program titled “Your Money and You.” Acción USA is the largest microlending network in the U.S, and their free financial education seminars are specifically targeted toward immigrant and minority populations.

Miami Saves

Angelo Gonzalez, Program Director for Miami Saves discussed the components of the local program and its national organization, America Saves. Mr. Gonzalez is also a Program Director with the Cuban American National Council, a non-profit organization headquartered in Miami. He discussed their affordable housing initiative for the elderly and their financial education program for youths in an alternative school. Mr. Gonzalez expressed interest in partnering with the Council to increase the efforts of America Saves across the state.

Lunch Break & Tour of United Way Miami-Dade

Staff Update

R. Jai Howard expressed thanks to Vanessa Benavides from the United Way of Miami-Dade for all her help with setting up everything for the meeting. She also thanked Chairman Obdulio Piedra for the Great Florida Bank sponsorship of today’s meeting.

Howard passed out a copy of the white paper on financial literacy written by two students in the Governor’s Fellowship Program.

Howard mentioned to the Council that there may be an opportunity for them to participate in a statewide campaign for America Saves Week. She will have more information for them at the December meeting.

Howard asked for feedback regarding the meeting schedule for 2008. Deidre Newton suggested the Council meet quarterly in 2008, with teleconferences as needed. Howard will prepare a proposed schedule for the December conference call.

FLC Discussion

Council discussion was limited to components of the annual report due on January 1, 2008. Liana Fernandez Fox is the lead Council member for the report. She reminded everyone of the format she proposed on the September conference call meeting: History/establishment of Council, mission and goals, committee reports, and plan for the future. She asked that each Council member submit the following: (1) Reaction to the presentations and discussions thus far, (2) soft recommendations for the CFO and (3) recommendations for future planning of the Council. Council members should submit their responses to R. Jai Howard via email by December 1, 2007. Fox will prepare a draft for discussion at the December meeting.

Meeting Adjourned