



**Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2010**

Council Members Present:

Cassandra Grayson
Dr. Liana Fox
Paul Auslander
Lou Buccino
Doug Heinlen
Deidre Newton
Obdulio Piedra
Dulce Suarez-Resnick

Not Present:

Richard George

Others Present:

Amanda Lewis, FFLC Staff Director, Department of Financial Services
Tami Torres, Department of Financial Services
Iris Collier, Department of Financial Services
R. Jai Gillum, Department of Financial Services

Call to Order & Welcome

The Financial Literacy Council held a teleconference to discuss financial literacy opportunities for Florida's Gulf Coast communities that have been affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

The teleconference was called to order by Chairwoman Cassandra Grayson at 2:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Amanda Lewis. Richard George was not available for the teleconference, all other members of the Council were present.

DFS Outreach

Tami Torres, Director for the Division of Consumer Services at the Department of Financial Services spoke to the Council regarding CFO Sink and DFS' efforts in assisting the citizens and businesses of the Gulf Coast impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and BP Claims Process.

Foreclosure Mediations

Deidre Newton spoke about her work with Foreclosure Mediations in Northwest Florida through the Collins Center. Deidre noted that while many of the individuals in the Gulf Coast region may not be directly impacted through their profession, there is an environment and economic impact.

Open Discussion – Financial Literacy Opportunities

Dulce Suarez-Resnick shared information with the Council regarding Statewide Claims Resolution, a consulting group interested in assisting small businesses with the BP claims process.

Obdulio Piedra notified the Council of scams related to the oil spill and shared a media alert issued by South Florida Workforce.

Several members of the Council and Department Staff discussed the creation of a group of licensed professionals, such as CPA's or others with financial expertise, to provide pro bono assistance to citizens and small business owners impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. R. Jai Gillum indicated that the Department is working with the FICPA to develop a group of individuals interested in providing this type of assistance. Paul Auslander noted that the FPA was ready to help.

Lou Buccino suggested the development of an online tutorial to walk claimants through the BP claims process.

Liana Fox offered the use of community college campuses in Northwest Florida as locations for future workshops hosted by the Department regarding the BP claims process. Liana also indicated that she would reach out to faculty members to serve as possible trainers at the workshops.

Cassandra Grayson noted that the credit unions have been offering workshops to assist small business owners with SBA loans.

Doug Heinlen indicated that the AARP can provide information to possible claimants through their web site and bulletins directing members where to go to file a claim. Dulce Suarez-Resnick noted that seniors who own condominiums or other rental property on the Gulf Coast would be eligible to file a claim with BP for loss of rental income and/or property damage caused as a direct result of the oil spill. BP should be contacted for these types of claims.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Cassandra Grayson at 2:45 p.m.