

**Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council**  
**Meeting 2**  
**August 18, 2011**  
**Marist College**

**Meeting Notes & Summary**

**Council Planning Session**

- Lt. Governor welcomed members.
- Co-Chairs Dennis Murray and Len Schleifer welcomed members
- Co-Chair Murray presented a power point that outlines the format of the meeting agenda, the tasks to be completed at the meeting, and the I-collaboration tool.
- Co-Chair Murray introduced Dr. Lee Miringoff of the Marist Polling Institute who will be working with the Council on public information and data gathering.
- Co-Chair Schleifer discussed the strategic plan and commented that the product must be something that can be implemented and that is ultimately achieved by compromise among the members of the council. He said it is the task of this council to be a model of collaborative decision making.
- Discussion among Council members about public participation, including questions about the use of social networking; the ability to identify and invite stakeholders to participate in meetings; what types of public outreach will be used to inform the public of the meetings; the structure of the public portion of the meetings and the use of interactive, web-based tools to solicit public input.

**General Session**

- Lt. Governor and Co-Chairs welcomed the Council members and the public to the meeting.
- Co-Chair Murray presented a power point on the meeting agenda, the charge of the Council, the key tasks to be considered at the meeting, the SWOT analysis process, and the components of the strategic plan.

**Working Group Presentations**

- **Vision Working Group** member, Laurence Gottlieb presented a power point on the Council's vision statement. He discussed the components of a vision statement and its general purpose. He provided an overview of the small group working sessions from meeting one that each contributed key words and themes to be incorporated into the vision statement. He offered draft versions of the vision statement and summarized the process of condensing the statement into a succinct, inclusive statement.
- Discussion among Council members about vision statement. Councilmember was pleased to see tourism and the environment reflected in the statement. It was asked if a shorter statement would be inclusive of all points of view. Another stated that he would like to see socio-economic, workforce and education issues considered in the statement.

- **Public Participation** Working Group member Mary Rodrigues presented a power point on the public participation strategies of the council. She said that the Council's public participation will include two public forums—the first one to be scheduled before the next Council meeting; interactive, web-based outreach; public participation in Council meetings and working group meetings. Public Participation working group member Robin Douglas added that the County Executive offices will be helpful in coordinating public participation in workgroups. Mary summarized that the interactive components of the public participation plan will be in place by first of September and that meeting location and workgroup formations will also be finalized.
- Discussion among Council members about public participation. Co-Chair Murray introduced Dr. Lee Miringoff and his staff from the Marist Polling Institute who provided an overview of the polling services they offer to the Council. A councilmember suggested that the non-profit organizations on the Council use their extensive mailing lists to solicit input from their stakeholders. It was also asked if the Council could gather comparative data on job creation in other states. Co-Chair Murray referred to existing research on economic development that would be posted on the Council's website. He also stated that next steps for the Council are to announce the first public forum and the electronic tool for public participation.

### **Presentation on Consolidated Funding Application**

*Irene Baker, Director of Cabinet Affairs for Governor Cuomo*

- Irene Baker provided an overview of the new Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The CFA is a one-stop, web-based application for the 17 grant programs included in the REDC for funding consideration. The CFA replaces nine agency-based applications and offers applicants a streamlined process that will allow them to access more than one source of funding, depending on the project and eligibility. Council members will see all the applications that are submitted through the CFA and will use their established criteria to score and recommend projects in their final strategic plan. The REDC scoring will be incorporated into the final grant selection process.
- Discussion among Council members about the CFA. Councilmember indicated that he has heard concern with the role of the councils in the grant selection process. Co-Chair Schleifer asked if there will be separate applications or just the CFA. Irene clarified that the CFA is the only way to apply for the 17 grant programs included in the REDC. Councilmember asked about the status of organizations that have already applied or are already in the system. Irene stated that she is working with all the agencies to line up the new timeline, which will be announced as soon as possible. A question was asked about the speed with which the Council and the Governor's office can react and respond to a new economic development prospect, and provided information about an example in his county. The Lt. Governor indicated that the ED staff has and will continue to move very quickly on all prospects. Councilmember asked if the state will be able to change funding sources based on the project applications submitted in the CFA. Irene replied that program requirements are generally in place statutorily and while the program requirements will not change, applicants may find they are eligible for more than one source of funding through the CFA. It was asked how the public will be informed of the

new CFA. Irene replied that there will be a big public push to promote the CFA from the Governor's office and Commissioners. Councilmember asked how many applications the Council can expect to see submitted through the CFA. Irene replied that staff is working on determining a threshold since there may be many more applications seen in this process.

- Public Discussion about CFA. Members of the public audience asked questions about the CFA process, the timeline and the public outreach.

### **Public Participation**

- Participant recommended that the Council consider the issues of the Sustainable Hudson Valley, and consider the principle of zero-waste.
- Participant from Community Voices Heard stated that the public must be kept involved in the process and that the PIT (personal income tax surcharge) must be kept on the books
- Participant asked if utilities are represented on the Council to consider the high-cost of utilities in the region and the impact of that on job creation. Councilmember stated the council has identified high utility costs as an inhibitor. Discussion ensued on the technology needs for locating data centers in the region.
- Councilmember urged that the Council consider small businesses along with large companies, stating that the impact of adding one job at 1000 small businesses equals creating 1000 jobs at one large company.
- Participant representing hospitals and the health care industry in the region suggested that the council consider the out-migration of the health care workforce to neighboring states. She offered the council assistance with data collection on the health care workforce in the region.
- Council discussion on public input. Suggestion was made to ask the public to submit ideas on the support they can offer the Council via the website. It was stressed that education must be a part of the Council's deliberations in order to address workforce issues.

### **Wrap-Up**

- Co-Chair Murray offered concluding remarks and asked Council members to email Aimee Vargas with their preferred working group assignments.