

MINUTES

INTERAGENCY MIGRANT WORKER POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 11, 2003

The quarterly meeting of the Interagency Migrant Worker Policy Committee was held at 10:00 a.m. on March 11, 2003 at the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. The Chairman, Commissioner C. Ray Davenport, who called the meeting to order, and the Policy Committee Administrator, Betty B. Jenkins, were present.

In attendance were the following:

Kenny Annis, MSFW Board Representative
Jeff Nelson, Virginia Medical Assistance Services
Ron Thompson, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
Perida Giles, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Harry Gregori, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
William Goodman, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Kim Lewis, Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission
Patience Jones, Virginia Department of Education
Denise Goode, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Jane Brown, Virginia Department of Social Services
Jim McKean, Virginia Department of Business Assistance
Rick Cagan, MSFW Board

Ms. Jenkins distributed the minutes of the December 10, 2002 Migrant Worker Policy Committee meeting and the January 29, 2003 MSFW Board meeting and other information.

Commissioner Davenport invited members to introduce themselves. He then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2002 meeting; Mr. Annis moved the minutes be approved and Ms. Giles seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Annis gave a brief overview of the January 29, 2003 MSFW Board meeting. He noted that among the topics discussed were the state's policy on buying Virginia products, labeling for pesticides, and an out-of-town location for a future meeting.

Mr. Thompson from DMV commented that House Bill 638 mandated that DMV investigate security issues regarding the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards and added that the policy on legal presence should be addressed by the General Assembly. He indicated that the report does not recommend a legal presence requirement due to implementation costs and other issues. He provided copies of the DMV Commissioner's Report to the Chairmen of the Transportation Committee of the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates.

Mr. Cagan said he contacted Ms. Elizabeth Kipler of the National Center for Farmworker Health. He stated that California has a reciprocal health care agreement with Oregon and Washington and Texas has an agreement with Michigan and five other states. He related that Ms. Kipler suggested that population data be gathered to decide where the relationship should be established. He felt a head count to determine the number of migrants is needed. He said member clinics could be requested to collect information on families who come for health care to determine the number of migrant patients who have a Medicaid card or SCHIP (State Child Health Insurance Program). He estimated it would take a year to gather data for a survey.

There was discussion that the broadcast by the Department of Medical Assistance Services has helped to clarify who is eligible for services.

Commissioner Davenport inquired if any applicants are denied medical services. Mr. Cagan replied that he was not aware of services being denied, but he felt the problem was that facilities were not being properly reimbursed for services. It was agreed that Mr. Cagan would draft a letter with a copy to Neil Graham for the Commissioner's signature to request information from medical providers. Mr. Cagan will identify the free clinics and hospitals that should receive the letter.

Ms. Brown recommended that the Virginia Association of Free Clinics be included in the survey adding that Mark Cruise is the Executive Director.

Mr. Nelson said he is not aware that Virginia is involved in any reciprocal agreement compacts at this time. He added that DMAS has had to make cuts in services. He said a limited amount of money is available through the Local Hospital Fund which has been used for migrants in the past.

There was discussion about a speaker to address migrant health care and Ms. Jenkins responded that Mr. Neil Graham is scheduled to speak at the April 30 MSFW Board meeting.

On the issue of pesticide labeling, Mr. Annis said that based on past experiences, having labeling changed is a major undertaking and would take years to effect changes. Commissioner Davenport replied that based on the comments made by Ms. Fleeson of VDACS at the last MSFW Board meeting, it is his understanding that the label is the law.

Commissioner Davenport advised the members that JLARC had spoken with Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Bell, former Board administrator, and Mr. Annis about the possibility of combining the Migrant Policy Committee and the MSFW Board. He added that the "sunset provision" would take effect if a newly formed board lasts beyond three years meaning that the General Assembly would have to give its approval for a board to continue. He questioned if the Migrant Policy Committee became ad hoc or non-voting, the problem may be that members would not attend the meetings. Mr. Annis felt that the Policy Committee has been instrumental in resolving problems because members can take issues back to their respective agencies for solutions.

Mr. Cagan stated that former Governor Baliles excluded state agency representatives from serving on the MSFW Board.

Commissioner Davenport reported that DOLI's newly revised Web site, www.doli.state.va.us, is now completed and some parts are also available in Spanish.

At the next MSFW Board meeting on April 30, Ms. Jenkins stated that Mr. Robert Bailey, VDACS, will speak on the pesticide labeling issue and Mr. Neil Graham, Virginia Primary Care Association, will talk about migrant health. She added that Mr. Bruce Clark of the Federal Wage and Hour Division has been invited to speak but has not confirmed. She also requested that Policy Committee members who have not emailed her their respective agency updates for the annual report have them to her by March 14.

Regarding Mexico's Matricula Consular identification card, Mr. Annis said that it only allows the migrant worker to open a bank account; it does not permit entry to airplanes, buildings, etc.

Ms. Brown explained that the General Assembly asked that DSS develop a resource directory of grass roots and community faith-based organizations who have an interest in partnering with state agencies. She said this information can be accessed by logging on to Social Services' Web site, www.dss.state.va.us, and clicking on the Faith-Based Community listing.

She also reported that DSS received a DOL grant to provide special training and dialogue on one-stop centers which is planned for May or June.

The next Migrant Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2003.

The next MSFW Board Meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2003.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.