



Employees Advisory Council



to continually improve the Pinellas County classified employees' quality of work life

Approved by the EAC

EAC - Delegate Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2011

Call to Order

- Charles Toney called the meeting to order at 8:15 am

Council Members Introductions and Backgrounds

- Tim Clark and Mercedes Pearson gave a brief bio to those in attendance on their service with the County and participation as a representative with the EAC.

Comments from Peggy Rowe

- Peggy Rowe spoke about the listening sessions being held throughout the County and stated they are going well. That it is an opportunity to speak directly with Human Resources on any issues, concerns or suggestions. The annual exchange of leave will likely be changes to a more frequent occurrence before the end of this year. The plan is to allow multiple exchanges within a year. (Minimum of 20 hours at a time; maximum of 160 hours). The exchanges to be deposited into deferred comp. will still only occur twice a year-June and November. Peggy was asked if the money received for annual exchange of leave could be given in a separate check. She told those in attendance she will ask Finance.

NOTE: Since this meeting new information has come about. The upcoming changes to the Leave Exchange Program have been communicated and additional communication will be coming.

Health and Wellness Dave Blasewitz

- Dave stated that health incentives will continue next year. More information to come.
- There will be no increase in health or dental care. There will be no plan changes this year.
- Prescription coverage will be through Medco.

Office of Management and Budget-Barry Lupiani

- Barry provided an update on the County budget for 2012; which has been approved by the BCC.
- The service level stabilization fund will be used to fill the anticipated 7 million dollar shortfall next year and is intended to minimize layoffs and reductions in staff. There will still likely be reductions next year but not to the extent of the past few years. The projected property tax decrease for next year is 3%, however, the amount may be higher as property values continue to decline. The County's saving from its reduced FRS Contribution was approximately 11-13 million. Cost saving measures will continue to be pursued and implemented.

Committee Reports

- Charles stated that he had attended the local Legislative Delegation meeting last week; nothing was brought up about the Florida Retirement System. (FRS) for this year, but cautioned that legislators may be looking at cutting the health subsidy. Now is a good time to start contacting your local representatives (senators / legislators) to let them know how you feel about any further cuts to FRS.
- Lisa Wombles told those in attendance there is a Quarterly Advocate meeting on September 23, 2011 2:30-4:30 at CJC. She encouraged those present to get involved as an advocate and spread the word on the program. Currently there are only 9 advocates.

Appointing Authority Meeting

- Charles told the group that the EAC/ Appointing Authority meeting held on August 23, 2011 was well-received. More communication between EAC and the BCC is one of the focus items.

Special Presentation-Big Brothers/Big Sisters

- A representative and volunteers from Big Brothers and Big Sisters spoke about the program, shared their experience and showed videos on the program. The program is in dire need of volunteers for 630 children ages 5 to 13. The biggest need is male volunteers for young boys, especially in St. Petersburg. Anyone interested in volunteering, making a financial contribution or obtaining more information may visit their website at www.bbbspc.org or contact the main office at (727) 518-8860. If you prefer you may contact today's speaker, Christa Wingert at (727) 518-8860 ext227 or email at ChristaW@bbbspc.org
- Habitat for Humanity is looking for over 100 volunteers to help on a project in St. Petersburg on Martin Luther King Day 2012 (Monday January 16th, 2012). Please contact your EAC Delegate or Representative if you would like to participate.

Open Discussion

- The EAC is looking to adding/extending the amount of leave accrual for employees past the schedule of current annual accruals. More information to come. The EAC is also continuing to pursue paid leave days as incentive for yearly reviews considering there is not money available for raises. The proposal would be 1 day for a "meets" and 2 days for "exceeds".

Next meeting – November 17, 2011 @ 8am