



Small Business Advisory Council Meeting – Minutes

Wednesday, November 9th, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Todd Colquitt, CSI - Business Advocate, called the meeting of the Small Business Advisory Council (“SBAC” or “Council”) to order at 10:08 a.m. in the Riffe Center, 31st Floor, Room East B, located at 77 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215. The following Council members were present, along with Mark Hamlin, CSI – Director of Regulatory Policy:

- Lonnie Alonso
- Mike Baach
- Michael Canty
- Tom Demaline
- Crystal Faulkner
- Mike Flowers
- Lorraine Walker

Mr. Colquitt started the meeting by providing the Council with a review of legislative and regulatory items. He highlighted two pieces of legislation. One would create the new definition of “microbusiness” for purposes of developing programs more focused on assisting that segment of the small business sector. The other would set a schedule and process for the legislature to review all cabinet-level state agencies and automatically sunset them unless they were specifically reauthorized by the General Assembly. Following that discussion, Council members raised questions regarding the implementation of legislation authorizing the circumscribed use of medical marijuana. Messrs. Colquitt and Hamlin offered to have the topic covered at a future Council meeting.

Sarah Morrison, Administrator/CEO – Bureau of Workers’ Compensation, then met with the Council to provide an update on the Bureau’s transition to prospective billing. She noted that 92% of covered businesses had voluntarily responded to notices from the Bureau in trueing up their respective accounts for the transition. The Bureau proactively reached out to the remaining 8% to make sure that as many of them as possible retained any previous discounts they enjoyed under retrospective billing. Administrator Morrison also discussed the recently added product that offers out-of-state coverage for employees of qualifying businesses, stating that so far approximately 200 employers, especially trucking firms and contractors, had opted to take advantage of the extended coverage. Finally, she shared that the Bureau was undertaking an

effort to review its forms to make them easier to understand and use, and would be conducting roundtables for business input on improving the forms.

Paula Steele, Ohio Business Gateway Project Leader, met with the Council to give them an update on the ongoing project to overhaul and modernize the Ohio Business Gateway. Ms. Steele walked the Council through a high-level timeline for overhauling first the external interface used by businesses followed closely by the internal interfaces the various state agencies use. Following that presentation, Tess Eckstein, Regulatory Policy Advocate – CSI, discussed the involvement of Lt. Governor Mary Taylor in chairing the Economic Task Force of the Conference of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. The Task Force is focused on cross-border trade and examining factors that impact such as infrastructure, cross-border regulatory alignment, labor mobility, and transportation.

Following lunch, David Goodman, Director – Ohio Development Services Agency, met with the Council. Director Goodman focused on the progress the agency has made in facilitating easier navigation among and between the dozens of business development programs it administers. In particular, he discussed getting the Small Business Development Centers to look beyond their local areas and adopt a statewide approach in finding and directing clients to resources specifically pertinent to their respective needs. He also discussed efforts like the agency's online Easy Program Finder tool which simplifies finding relevant agency business assistance programs and suggests additional programs that may also be useful.

The Council then met with Craig Butler, Director – Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He highlighted the Administration's successful efforts to have the General Assembly pass legislation enhancing drinking water safety. The legislation updated and reformed the reporting and notification requirements on lead contamination for water system operators. There followed a general discussion on the need for a renewed focus on plant management of water and sewer systems. This includes maintaining an accurate database of line locations and plant age so that a scheduled replacement program can be properly budgeted and funded.

Messrs. Hamlin and Colquitt then had a general discussion with the Council regarding administrative details and housekeeping in closing out the year. There being no further business, the Small Business Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Future SBAC Meetings in 2017

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will occur at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, OH 43215. Meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. Eastern. This schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the Council. Scheduled meetings are set to occur on:

- Wednesday, February 15th
- Wednesday, April 19th

- Wednesday, June 21st
- Wednesday, August 9th
- Wednesday, October 18th