

Council on Human Resources
March 17, 2011
Minutes

Members attending: Chair Craig Markva, Carol DeFilippo, William Ermatinger, Claudia Farr, John Garrett, Anne Howard, Sabrina Johnson, Jo Anne Maxwell, Charlotte Moore, Norma Szakal, Sara R. Wilson, Elaine Yeatts.

Members absent: Suzanne Puryear, Sheryl Holland-Smith, Barbara Stafford, Patricia Wilkins Jones.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m., with some council members joining by teleconference. Craig Markva introduced new council member Jo Anne Maxwell from the Office of the Attorney General, appointed by Governor McDonnell for the state employee in management position.

Minutes for December 2010 were approved.

Sara Wilson gave the Council an update on the 2011 General Assembly session and other human resource issues. She discussed legislation on the 5 percent employee raise and 5 percent employee contribution to the Virginia Retirement System; the reduction in state health care expenses for FY 2010 and issues concerning the COVA Connect health plan; failed legislation sponsored by State Senator Steve Martin to exclude the release of employee names under the Freedom of Information Act; the progress of an evacuation subgroup she is chairing for the Capitol Security Working Group; and the Governor's plans to accelerate the implementation of the E-Verify system to June 1, 2011 from the original date of January 1, 2012.

Mary Habel, Director of State and Local Benefits Programs, presented a review and update of the gastric bypass education program that took effect in February 2010. More than 100 members are currently active in the program. Ms. Habel gave examples of member engagement and implementation of lifestyle changes. The General Assembly approved this new program in lieu of dropping coverage for morbid obesity surgery. The program sets up a pre-surgery education program, integrating medical, behavioral health and disease management services.

Anne Dinterman, statewide director of the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), presented this year's results and also provided an update on the state employee loan program. The 2010 CVC Campaign raised \$3.9 million, or 91 percent of the 2009 total. While donations were down 9 percent because of economic conditions, the average employee gift increased. The program also compares favorably to the national average decrease in giving during the year. Ms. Dinterman also reported that in partnership with the Virginia Credit Union, the loan program reached a milestone at 18 months of \$3.9 million in employee loans. The program has a total of 5,896 borrowers. Ms. Dinterman's presentation is enclosed.

Rue White, Director of Agency Human Resource Services, discussed an initiative on state leave simplification spurred by the Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring. The Commonwealth has 16 different leave policies which collectively are difficult to administer and for employees to understand. An Employee Leave Advisory Group will meet later this month.

There being no more business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.