
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION W/ KEN SMITH, PRESIDENT, JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES
DATE: 6/15/2000
CC: FILE

I spoke to Ken Smith, President of Jobs for America's Graduates (941-966-2800 Florida office) this morning at 9:00. Ken said that WIA funds can be used to fund the program, as referred to in the information Kimberly Barr of his staff sent to Joy Milam. He said that JTPA funds probably comprised 30% of JAG's funding and that Governor Mabus used JTPA funds to initiate the program in Mississippi. He said that TANF funds are also an excellent source of revenue.

I expressed Dr. Thompson's position that the state board's membership needs to be strengthened and Smith agreed. He said that Governor Mabus is willing to chair the board if that pleases Governor Musgrove. He said that you definitely want as high as name recognition that you can get for the chair and that Gov. Mabus would certainly work. Smith said that, in general, we would want Bettye Fletcher, J.C. Burns and Richard Thompson, as well as:

- the chair or a strong leader from the Workforce Development Council
- several strong business leaders (state-wide businesses or big industry in MS): Smith suggested the Governor consider brand names as well as those business leaders respected by the Legislature and also those businesses hiring a lot of youth.
- Small business representation
- MS Economic Council
- The state's small business organization or some other professional association geared towards small business
- Churches: Smith said that other states have found churches to be extremely influential and pointed out the important role churches play in engaging families and in providing social services.

- 1 or 2 local superintendents: Smith said that Howard Sanders, currently on the board, has been extremely effective.
- 1 or 2 state legislators: Smith said that Speaker Pro-Tem Clark was instrumental in initial funding and authorization for the Jobs for Mississippi Graduates program.

I inquired as to average size of an effective board and Smith said that we want at least 25 because on a typical board day, only about 2/3 will be able to attend. He said that membership is typically pretty balanced between government, business and education.

Smith said that the most important consideration in the board composition is that it compliment Governor Musgrove and his educational and workforce development initiatives. I inquire as to the effectiveness of the staff and Smith said that Jean Hendrix is a very strong, articulate and caring leader, but that she has been short-handed, with one reason being that everything has been put into the schools. He said that one of the greatest needs, next to the funding, is to get a strong management-minded assistant director. Smith suggested that I contact Governor Mabus (594-7400) for his input as to board members. He said that he understands Governor Mabus and Governor Musgrove spoke earlier this week.

I inquired as to the funds needed, in his opinion based upon is national experience, to maintain an effective program. He said that the program ran on \$780,000, but that the Legislature has only appropriated \$244,000 for next year and that Jean has \$40,000 in carry-over funds. In order to maintain the 16 programs and to bring on an assistant director for Jean, Smith said that at least an additional \$600,000 needs to be identified for funding.

Smith said that Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Raymond Bramucci, or his deputy secretary would be more than happy to speak to Governor Musgrove concerning using WIA funds. He also said that Governor Carper (D-Delaware) has spoken to Governor Musgrove concerning the program. He said that he would be happy to meet w/, talk to, or assist in arranging for others to meet w/ the Governor.

I provided Ken Smith w/ my direct number and my email for his reference in notifying us of further developments.
