

DRAFT

Right to Know Advisory Committee
Education and Training Subcommittee
October 26, 2006
(Draft) Meeting Summary

Convened 9:00 a.m., Room 438, State House, Augusta

Present:

Judy Meyer, CHair
Mark Dion
Richard Flewelling
Linda Pistner
Karla Black

Absent:

Mal Leary
Maureen O'Brien
Harry Pringle
Ralph Stetson

Staff:

Peggy Reinsch
Colleen McCarthy Reid

Chair Judy Meyer convened the subcommittee with three members present. Linda Pistner, then Karla Black, joined the meeting after it had begun.

Ms. Meyer suggested that the subcommittee to focus first on the education and training for the upcoming Legislature. The 123rd Legislature will convene on Wednesday, December 6, 2006. Ideally, the Advisory Committee will be able to participate in the Pre-Legislative Conference held December 4th and 5th. At the very least, a packet of materials from the Advisory Committee should be distributed to legislators. A role in the orientation for committee chairs and committee leads (the ranking member of the committee of the party not in the majority), which will take place in early or mid-January, is also important.

Ms. Reid provided a summary of her discussions with David Boulter, Executive Director of the Legislative Council, about the possibility of the Advisory Committee being part of the education and training for the 123rd Legislature. There may be an opportunity to make available up to 20 minutes for the Advisory Committee at the Pre-Legislative Conference; Mr. Boulter will check with the Legislative Council's subcommittee. A packet of materials will be welcome whether or not a slot on the agenda is available. Mr. Boulter believed there will be time at the chairs and leads orientation in January.

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Ms. Meyer noted that she thought 15 minutes at the Pre-Legislative Conference would be the most the Advisory Committee would need to express the importance of the Advisory Committee's work and that the Advisory Committee is eager to work with the legislators, and welcomes feedback. She described it as an invitational presentation. As discussed in the Advisory Committee meeting on the 18th, each member of the Advisory Committee will be requested to write a letter on their letterhead explaining their participation in the Advisory Committee, and their perspective of why the work is important.

The letters from the members will be included in the packet of information that will be provided to all legislators. The packet would also include a fact sheet, which Ms. Pistner agreed to provide. She will start with the information sheet prepared by OPLA for the chairs and leads orientation, and insert additional information that applies more broadly. The FAQ list on the FOA website is excellent and will also be part of the packet.