

P.O.W.E.R. Collaborative Network (**PCN**)

Meeting Summary

January 8, 2007

The P.O.W.E.R. Collaborative Network (**PCN**), a provider of human resources outreach connectivity conducted an outstanding meeting to begin the New Year 2007 . We extend our best to both of our hosts: **BROAD SPECTRUM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF LONG BEACH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BUREAU.**

We wish to give personal recognition and appreciation to **Donnicus Cook**, CEO of Broad Spectrum, **Elnora Ragland**, Broad Spectrum Manager, **Cecile Walters**, Long Beach Workforce Development, and **Teresa Magallanes Coronado**, Program Manager, Center for Working Families. Thank you Teresa for giving the members a complete description of the various partners located at the Center for Working Families. It is appears to be a very comprehensive asset for the community.

This meeting centered on individual development and tax management services. **Victor Otiniano**, Vice President Branch Manager for Union Bank of California helped to open the morning with providing an overview of services the branch offers located at the Center for Working Families. Victor welcomed PCN members to encourage their clients to open an account with Union Bank. Victor can be reached at (562) 489 -2694, or email at [victor.otiniano@uboc.com](mailto:victor.otiniano@uboc.com)

**Connie Stewart**, Senior Tax Specialist, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) shared some specialty information for workers to claim special credits on their annual filings to the IRS. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tremendous advantage for working individuals and their families, where unclaimed funds are returned to the government coffers each year.

It is important to note that the services provided do not affect welfare, TANIF or SSI payment eligibility, as these credits are stand-alone programs. **Ms. Stewart** can be reached at (213) 576-3439 or by email at [connie.stewart@irs.gov](mailto:connie.stewart@irs.gov)

**Donnicus Cook**, CEO, Broad Spectrum Community Development Corporation provided an invaluable overview on the various tax filing benefits available to most wage and non-wage earners. Tax credits such as phone excise, earned income, and child excise tax credits.

**Mr. Cook** shared how those workers with fictitious social security numbers are legally required to file and can do so without penalty or de portation issues by gaining an employee tax identification number and making a tax filing to the IRS. Such wage earners will be eligible for a refund and credits.

Through Broad Spectrum's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, all participants receive free tax filings comparable to any paid tax filing company. In fact, the services in most cases exceed that of the paid services that do not specialize in earned income tax assistance. Clients of the VITA center can also bring delinquent filings up to three years in arrears up to date free of charge.

These tax services are located throughout Los Angeles County, including Carson, Compton, Inglewood, Lancaster, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Park, North Hollywood, Santa Clarita, and San Fernando Valley. The main Broad Spectrum Offices are in Inglewood and the number is (310) 693-6505, and **Mr. Cook's** email is [dlcook@broadpectrum.org](mailto:dlcook@broadpectrum.org)

The next **PCN** meeting is set for Monday, February 19, 2006, hosted by our PCN partner **Los Angeles Urban League Business and Career Center**, 12700 S. Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90061.

**PCN Meeting Attendees for January 2007**

Alisa Munoz, City of Long Beach  
Althais Aka, DPSS

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Autumn McCoy, Century Housing-CCTP

Belonda Stringfield, Crystal Stairs

Bill Vincoul, Amen University Health Science

Blanche Octave, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Carolyn Christian Hines, Hines Hospitality Group

**Cecile Harris Walters, City of Long Beach Workforce Development Bureau**

Charles Jackson, Hub City News

Clarence Espinosa, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Connie Brown, Prepaid Legal & Identity Theft

Connie Stewart, Internal Revenue Service

Cynthia Patron, Long Beach Community Workforce Development Bureau

Cynthia Soriano, Center for Working Families

Damiana Paras, Department of Public Social Service GAIN Region I

Darryl Fisher, State of California Employment Development Department, West L.A.

Dean Jones, Southland Business Partnership

Deloris Frisby, Goodwill

Don Caldwell, Workforce Investment Network (WIN)

**Donnicus Cook, Broad Spectrum, CDC**

Dorothy Thomas, State of CA Employment Development Department, Long Beach

Elainea Robbins, Los Angeles Urban League

Elizabeth Russell, Job Corps

**Elnora Ragland, Broad Spectrum, CDC**

Fernando Godinez, US Vets

Frank Melli, P.A.C.E.

Garry Phillips, Mentors International

Hera Ewing, Jobstarts

James Jones, Gangsters for Christ

Jamie Gutierrez, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Janneise Brooks, Goodwill

Jeanellie Labrada, VA Industries – PM & R VA Rehabilitation

Jennifer Frank, Mentors International

Joanie Knight, Forte Tax Academy

Joe Rouzan, City of Los Angeles Community Development Department

Jonathan Bennett, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

La Toya Laymon, Covenant House California

LaVerne Daniels, State of California Employment Development Department

LaVonté Jackson, Goodwill Serving the People of Southern L.A. County

Linda Schaedle, Goodwill – Community Transition Center, Long Beach

Marta Rodriguez, M. Rodriguez Consultants

Melody Allen, Goodwill of southern Los Angeles

Merwin Gerard, Los Angeles County DPSS, GROW Program

Michael Richardson, Los Angeles Unified School District -- 'We Build'

Naomi Sot, Los Angeles CAUSA youth Build

Patricia Pascua, AMI/Able Program Harbor UCLA

Rick Gonzalez, YOC

Robert Hamm, Los Angeles Unified School District

Rose Cote, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Scott Lloyd, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority "METRO"

Shirley Lockridge, Los Angeles Southwest College

Stephanie Bellamy, FedEx Ground

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Stephen Thompson, Los Angeles Opportunities Industrialization Center (LAOIC)

Susan Tenner, Abram Freidman Occupational Center

**Teresa Magallanes Coronado, Center for Working Families**

Tiffany Hooker, Los Angeles Southwest College

Tonya Haynes, Phoenix Business Development Group

Tywanshay Watson

Vernell Taylor, Union Bank of California

**Victor Otiniano, Union Bank of California**

Vilma Delgado, Dayle McIntosh Center

Vivian Hochschild, Community Transition Center – Long Beach

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**PCN** started in January 2001, focused on job coordination for community residents, assisting them with public & private sector work placement. The **PCN** members are community builders serving to identify, nurture, & mobilize local assets by enhanced networking to rejuvenate economies, strengthen business investments, & ultimately build up civil society. The **PCN** meets monthly sharing job recruitment, funding, training, workforce projects, & other related topics at various member locations.

