

Globalization and Restructuring in Rural America

June 6, 2005

Governor Mark Warner

- State of the Commonwealth Speech-
January 14, 2002
 - “The Economic Crisis Strike Force will provide prompt assistance in coordinating unemployment benefits, emergency health care benefits, and job training programs when communities are plunged into crisis.”

Executive Order 2

- Created the Economic Crisis Strike Force
- Provide immediate needed relief services to individuals and communities.
- Develop long-term economic development strategies for distressed areas.

Strike Force

- Commerce and Trade Agencies
 - Virginia Employment Commission
 - Department of Business Assistance
 - Economic Development Partnership
 - Housing and Community Development
 - Tobacco Commission

Strike Force (*continued*)

- Health and Human Resources Agencies
 - Department of Social Services
 - Department of Medical Assistance Services (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security –FAMIS)
 - Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
 - Department for the Aging

Strike Force (*continued*)

- Education Agencies
 - K-12
 - GED
 - Community College System

Coordinated Economic Relief Center (CERC)

- Single point of entry
- Case management approach
- Referrals to service providers
- Toll-free telephone number
- Set up in 30 days
- No funding

Criteria for Strike Forces

- Event or events resulting in a permanent layoff of at least 5% of the total employment in the affected area.
- An extraordinary event.
- Governor elects to launch a Strike Force.

Clarksville

- 1,305 population
 - Russell Stover Candy- 690
 - Burlington- 750

Job and Services Fair

- Employers
- Employment Commission
- WIA
- Social Services- Local
- Medical Assistance Services
- United Way
- Community College
- Faith-based leadership

Rent Office Space

- Employment Commission
- Social Services
- Community College
- FAMIS
- Behavioral Health
- Child Support Enforcement

Other Issues

- Created tracking system.
- Consent to exchange information.
- Schedule partners.
- Local advisors.

Identify Gaps

- GED
- Basic Computer Training
- Church Grant
- Employment sites
- Realistic training
- Publicity- Radio, church bulletins, flyers, letters from the Secretary.

Other Sites

- South Boston
- Martinsville
- Marion

Lessons Learned

1. Not a panacea.
2. Need more planning time.
3. Resource constraints.
4. Assessment tools.
5. State has no local control.

Lessons Learned (*continued*)

6. Larger commitment from partners.
7. Tracking participants difficult
8. Community expectations (health coverage).
9. Economic Development difficult.
10. Establish a closing date.

**REGARDED AS
SUCCESSFUL**

Any Questions?

Dee Esser

Commissioner

Virginia Employment Commission

Phone: (804) 786-3001

Email: Dolores.Esser@vec.virginia.gov