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.
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).
10. Establish a closing date.
REGARDED AS
SUCCESSFUL
Any Questions?

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