

Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, Interim Steering Committee

June 2, 2009, 1-2pm Eastern

Present:

Roxana Dietz, State of Pennsylvania
Chip Gavin, State of Maine
Betty Lamoreau, State of Maine
Eric Dirnbach, Workers United
Bama Athreya, International Labor Rights Forum
Liana Foxvog, SweatFree Communities
Bjorn Claeson, SweatFree Communities

Agenda review

The group decided to proceed with the agenda as written.

May minutes

Approved as written.

Updates

Consortium status: 11 public entities have committed to be part of the Consortium. The membership forms and funds are in the pipeline or committed. The first city to send the membership form and submit payment was the City of Austin.

Action: Bjorn will draft a letter on behalf of the interim steering committee to City of Austin welcoming them. Chip will sign and send the letter.

Independent monitoring contract: Whereas Agreement is drafted. Once it is signed by the supplier, Roxana can share the information and she plans to talk about it at the NASPO Eastern Regional Meeting. Cannot post it before the required signatures are in place. The group shared congratulations with Roxana for her work.

Usually it takes 30-60 days for a contract to be useable so that could be as early as July. Some changes have been made to the contract – if a participating jurisdiction wants to participate in only one part of the contract, it can do that, and can also add hourly wage rates. The state must specify whether it wants the travel cost included in the total or if that will be handled separately.

Update from PA: Proposing a revision to the Executive Order to include textiles in addition to apparel and laundry services. The legal department considers footwear as apparel. PA exempts production by their correctional industries, which buy from their statewide contract, because of what they pay them on an hourly rate, but wants to apply other aspects of the ordinance to production at Correctional facilities. Bjorn mentioned the policy comparison matrix that he prepared as a resource.

Letter to purchasing officials: At last meeting there was a desire to reach out to jurisdictions that have adopted sweatfree policies to join the Consortium with the \$500

initiation cost. Bjorn and Chip have drafted a letter, which was provided to the group with the agenda. The letters will be sent to procurement directors. *Next steps:* 1) Bjorn and Chip will finalize the letter, 2) it will go through a legal review in Maine, 3) Bjorn will compile the list of recipients, 4) it will be sent under Chip's signature within the next few weeks. The group showed support for the text of the letter and there were no objections.

Governor to governor letter: Bjorn asked whether, in addition, there could be a letter to other governors. Bama thinks it would help with the dialogue they are having with Governor of Maryland. Chip says the political moment will need to be ripe, is not the case currently in Maine, and prefers to focus on the letter to purchasing officials first and see how that plays out. Roxana said that other letters could go out with new announcements. Eric thought that such a letter to New York would be timely now. The group decided to hold off on blanket mailing of governor to governor, but can encourage targeted outreach.

In-person Consortium meeting

When: Most likely Monday Sept. 21, 2009, possibly Sunday Sept. 20, 2009. We will wait to receive the NASPO meeting agenda to decide on the times. A problem with holding it on Sunday is that NASPO may not pay for travel for an earlier arrival.

Where: Lake Tahoe, near site of NASPO meeting

Who: Purchasing officials from jurisdictions committed to the Consortium and human rights / labor rights advocates who are part of this committee.

Purpose of the meeting: primarily organizational. Formalize the governance structure, establish the first official governing board, finalize by-laws, perhaps work on strategic plan. In addition there could a special educational session for a larger audience – for ex. purchasing officials from jurisdictions that may be considering sweatfree policy.

RFP for monitoring services

Bjorn started the discussion of this agenda item by asking for the formation of a working group to draft an RFP for independent monitor(s) on behalf of the Consortium.

This group was not identified as a series of questions were raised:

Can Consortium participate in PA's contract for monitoring services? Roxana shared that only individual public entities can use the PA contract but the Consortium cannot use it as a group.

Other monitoring options discussed included:

- 1) The Consortium's own RFP for independent monitor(s). What sort of detail does the contract need to meet the requirements of the Consortium's members?
- 2) Using same IM that is used under the PA contract without doing its own RFP.
- 3) All jurisdictions that are part of the Consortium could use the PA contract directly without any additional contract by the Consortium. Questions this option raises: Is it

possible to share cost and coordinate monitoring through the PA contract? Will it be efficient and will it meet our needs? Who decides where monitoring is done? Are there additional benefits to the Consortium having its own IM contract?

Roxana shared that it will be 6-9 months before PA has the funding to do an investigation. Maine is in a similar spot.

Further discussion of monitoring scenarios needed. Group resolved to achieve clarity by next meeting.

Action: Roxana will speak with PA legal department, Oregon, and Ohio to determine cost-sharing possibilities under PA contract.

Cooperative Apparel Purchasing Contract

Ohio and Oregon are considering adding a 1% fee on a cooperative apparel purchasing contract to pay for monitoring. But unclear who is going to draft the cooperative sweatfree apparel contract. Currently MA owns a multi-state apparel contract. The contract will expire soon. Can the next one include sweatfree requirements? Is ME still planning to draft a contract?

Action: Liana will contact purchasing department in MA.

Next meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 1pm Eastern / 10am Pacific