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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, April 05, 2012

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## **Secretary Newson Announces Members of Minority Unemployment Task Force Focused on Improving Job Opportunities in Milwaukee County**

*Led by Co-chairs Lt. Governor Kleefisch and state Rep. Coggs, bipartisan panel to develop strategies, collaborate with Governor's Council on Workforce Investment*

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced the full membership list for the Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment, which will develop strategies to reduce minority unemployment in the Milwaukee area.

"We are pleased and impressed by the willingness of people to help address the serious and troubling issue of minority unemployment in Milwaukee," Secretary Newson said. "The task force members share our commitment, and we are confident that their efforts will lead to real solutions. We want to get Wisconsin working again, and that means empowering all who want to work."

Secretary Newson recently announced the Governor's creation of the task force, which will be co-chaired by Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and state Representative Elizabeth Coggs, a Milwaukee Democrat. The panel will review workforce training programs in the Milwaukee area, identify best practices, and recommend a skills pipeline to prepare and connect unemployed minorities, black males in particular, with employment opportunities.

Other members of the bipartisan panel include state Representatives Jason Fields, a Milwaukee Democrat, and Mark Honadel, a South Milwaukee Republican, as well as members of Governor Walker's Cabinet including: Secretary Newson, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson and Wyman Winston, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

Gerard Randall, former president of the Private Industry Council, will serve as vice chair. The other members are:

- Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Senior Vice President, Mission Services, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin and Metropolitan Chicago;
- Earl Buford, President & CEO, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP;
- Kathryn Dunn, Vice President, Community Investment, Greater Milwaukee Foundation;
- Richard Harris, Executive Director, Vision Beyond Bars, Madison;
- Scott Jansen, Director, Milwaukee Talent Dividend, Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC), and Chair of Milwaukee Bradley Technical High School Commission
- Shelley Jurewicz, Vice President for Economic Development, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce;
- David Karst, Vice President, Human Resources, Buy Seasons, New Berlin;

- more -

- Tony Kearney, Project Manager, Northcott Neighborhood House, Milwaukee;
- Tina Koehn, Vice President, Administration, United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), Inc.;
- Sean McDowell, President, McDowell Construction, Milwaukee;
- Dawn Pratt, Human Resources Manager, Payne and Dolan, Inc.;
- Hattie Daniels-Rush, Program Director, Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ, and Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee;
- Don Sykes, President & CEO, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board; and
- Charles Vang, President, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.

The task force will schedule an organizational meeting within the next several weeks in Milwaukee, and will plan to hold a series of public meetings to gather information. The panel will collaborate on recommendations with the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment.