



## DOL News Brief

June 24, 2010

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### At the Table: African American Youth Advocates



Secretary Solis and several department officials, including the assistant secretaries for policy, congressional affairs, veterans employment

and training services, and the employment and training administration, held a roundtable discussion with prominent African-American leaders earlier this week. Reverend Al Sharpton of the National News Network, Marc Morial of the National Urban League, and Karen Sitnick, Director of Employment Development for the City of Baltimore, were among the advocates invited to present their successes and challenges when engaging youth in summer employment programs. Several members of the discussion presented their ideas on how to most effectively appropriate resources for summer employment initiatives, as well as ways to increase the visibility of the national government in these programs.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

### At the Table: LGBT Leaders

Members and leaders of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community met with Secretary Solis and key staff members on



Wednesday to discuss the department's new interpretation of parenthood under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). DOL officials addressed aspects of the administrator's interpretation, and listened to individuals share their personal stories of hardships and discrimination, as well as suggestions for further action aimed at improving gender-based and sexual orientation-based equality. Participating in the discussion with Solis were Senior Advisor Mary Beth Maxwell, Assistant Secretary for the

### What's Hot

#### FMLA Clarification Ensures All Caregivers the Right to Family Leave

All families, no matter what they look like, are protected by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). "Workplaces have changed over the last ten years and how we view families has evolved as well," said Secretary Solis. That message was solidified when the department announced this week, that an employee who assumes the role of caregiving for a child is entitled family leave regardless of their legal or biological relationship to the child. This clarification of the law is a victory for many non-traditional families, including families in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, who have often been denied family leave. The FMLA allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period to care for loved ones or themselves.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Administrator's Interpretation](#)

### National News

#### New Patient Bill of Rights

President Obama was joined by Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in announcing interim final and proposed rules to protect the benefits of Americans covered by group health plans and individual insurers. The rules implement provisions of the Affordable Care Act dealing with pre-existing condition exclusions, lifetime and annual dollar limits on benefits, rescissions, and patient protections. The ruling will be published in the June 28 Federal Register and effective August 27.



- [Read the White House Blog](#)
- [Read the Regulation](#)
- [Read the Fact Sheet](#)

#### USICH Presents Plan to End Homelessness

Cabinet secretaries from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) gathered at the White House this week to unveil to the President and Congress the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. The full report is titled Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. "We know that the federal government alone cannot address this challenge," said Secretary Solis who as the Vice Chair of the council is tasked with coordinating the federal response to homelessness. "Achieving the goals in Opening Doors will require strong partnerships with Congress, states, localities, philanthropy, and faith-based and community organizations across the

Office of Disability Employment Policy Katherine Martinez, and Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division Nancy Leppink.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Commentary](#)

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## \$20 Million to Serve At-Risk Youth



During a visit to Sasha Bruce Center, a YouthBuild site in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, Secretary Solis announced two

national grants to serve at-risk youth. The two grantees will each receive \$10 million to work in partnership with federal and state correctional agencies, local workforce investment boards and community-based service providers to offer a proven array of academic, employment and other re-entry-focused strategies to transform the lives of program participants. "The grants will improve the employment prospects of disadvantaged youth, young adult offenders and high school dropouts living in high-poverty, high-crime communities who need our support," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## OSHA: Keeping Gulf Workers Safe

Focusing his remarks on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) efforts to clean up workers during the oil spill, OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels testified Wednesday before the House Committee on Education and Labor. OSHA personnel were first deployed to the Gulf during the week of April 26th and are now present in all 17 staging areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. "Every day, OSHA has over 146 professionals protecting workers throughout the Gulf Region, 25 of whom are assigned solely to the Oil Response Cleanup. We are in the field and on boats to make sure BP and its contractors are protecting cleanup workers from health and safety hazards," he said.

- [Read Dr. Michaels' Testimony](#)

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## DOL Meets with Vietnamese Community Along the Gulf Coast

Both the Wage and Hour district director for the Gulf Coast and the deputy regional administrator for OSHA attended a community meeting on the BP Oil Drilling Disaster last week. The event, hosted by Asian Americans for Change in Biloxi, MS, gave OSHA staff the opportunity to answer

country. After all, the people of our nation are best served when we work as a team."

- [Watch the White House Announcement](#)
- [Read the Opening Doors Plan](#)

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## DOL Working For You

### Job Corps Grad Becomes Music Industry Impresario

When he was a young boy growing up in West Philadelphia, Troy Carter dreamed of becoming a music industry success.

The 1990 Job Corps graduate is now the CEO of Coalition Media Group, a Beverly Hills, California, artist management and digital marketing company who includes among his clients mega music sensation Lady Gaga.



Carter, 37, received his GED from the former Chesapeake Job Corps Center in Port Deposit, Maryland. He said Job Corps "helped me experience independence for the first time" and meet people from different walks of life. Carter used those skills as he later worked with music stars like Sean "Diddy" Combs, Jazzy Jeff, the Fresh Prince, Eve and Nelly.

Carter said America needs institutions like Job Corps because building world leaders "starts in school" with students who "don't stop dreaming and work hard."

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## News You Can Use

### Nominations for National Health Care Workforce Needed

The Protection and Affordable Care Act has given the Comptroller General of the United States responsibility for appointing 15 members to the National Health Care Workforce Commission. Among the responsibilities of the Commission are to create health care career pathways; disseminate information on promising retention program; and make recommendations to Congress on national health care workforce needs. Letters of nomination and resumes should be submitted by June 30 to ensure adequate opportunity for review and consideration. For further information on the nomination process, call (202) 512-4800.

- [Read the Federal Register Notice](#)

### Space Task Force Launches Website to Engage Public

The joint Task Force on Space Industry Workforce and Economic Development, which the Department of Labor is a member, launched an interactive Website to encourage public comment. The task force is seeking advice on ways to promote economic growth and sustainability in the Space Coast region as it adapts to changes in America's space program. The site also offers valuable information about the work the Obama administration is doing to create jobs in the region by fostering a more supportive entrepreneurial environment. An interagency action plan to enhance economic development strategies along the Space Coast, as well as a report with recommendations, will be issued to the President by August 15.

- [Learn More About the Site and Task Force](#)

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## DOL in Action

### DOL Helping Homeless Vets

questions about health issues related to cleanup workers, while Wage and Hour distributed “We Can Help” information. Wage and Hour has also scheduled a follow-up meeting to talk to BP officials on how its enforcement activities relate to oil spill cleanup workers in the Gulf states.

- [Learn More About “We Can Help”](#)
- [Read the Facts in Vietnamese](#)

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## Green Scene

### Calling Women for Green Jobs

More than 400 listeners nationwide tuned in to the Women’s Bureau’s (WB) “Green Building and Energy Efficiency” teleconference on Thursday. This was the fourth event in the bureau’s green jobs series, aimed at connecting women with the emerging green industry. WB Director Sara Manzano-Díaz, Home Energy Life Performance Group Inc. Owner/President Berenice Lopez-Dorsey, Wind Business and Strategy Development Director Karen Conover, and Malachite LLC, Founder and Managing Principal Leanne Tobias provided an overview of the industry to participants, including information on career pathways and examples of women being successfully connected to employment in green construction and energy efficiency. Written transcripts and an audio version of the call will be available on the WB website soon.

- [Read the Fact Sheet](#)
- [View the PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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## Job Corps is Cooking!



Sixteen teams from across the Mid-Atlantic area, donned with chef hats and armed with culinary tools, competed for top honors at the 22nd

annual Culinary Arts Expo and Iron Chef competition hosted by the Philadelphia Region’s Office of Job Corps from June 14 through June 18 at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing, N.J. This year’s theme, ‘Eat Right, Cook Light’, focused on preparing healthy meals. The Edison Job Corps culinary team from Edison, N.J., finished in first place.

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## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

### Open Funding Opportunities

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

### Event Spotlight: Free Health Law Seminars

DOL and the New York Insurance Department will co-host free health law seminars in Manhattan

Secretary Solis this week announced 97 grants, totaling more than \$24 million, to provide veterans with job training in civilian careers. The grants are being awarded under the Labor Department’s Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. “This administration is committed to ending homelessness. Achieving that goal is crucial to restoring the strength of our economy and the right thing to do for our nation as a whole,” said Secretary Solis. “These grants will help more than 14,000 homeless veterans across the country find meaningful employment, and they will help ensure that these remarkable individuals never face homelessness again.” Homeless veterans may receive occupational, classroom and on-the-job training, as well as job search and placement assistance, including follow-up services. The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program is the only federal program that focuses exclusively on employment of veterans who are homeless.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [View the Grantees](#)

### Consumers Win on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Benefits

Secretary Solis praised a recent court ruling this week that allows the Departments of Labor, Treasury and Health and Human Services to continue a regulatory process designed to make mental health and substance abuse benefits more affordable. Solis said, “This ruling is a victory for American families who are faced with both the emotional and financial costs of obtaining mental health and substance abuse services.” The new rules provide parity for consumers by prohibiting group health insurance plans—typically offered by employers—from restricting access to care through limits on benefits and requiring higher patient costs than those applicable to general medical or surgical benefits.

- [Read the Statement](#)
- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Regulation](#)

### Nearly \$597 Million to Support Job Training Programs for Seniors

“Older workers are an essential part of our nation’s present and an increasingly greater part of its future, but it can be difficult for this dynamic sector of our population to access good jobs. At the U.S. Department of Labor, we are committed to ensuring older workers have access to the training and other professional services they both need and deserve,” said Secretary Solis when announcing \$596,525,000 in funds to continue support for 74 state, territory and national grantees of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). These funds will enable income and training support for 61,900 individuals ages 55 and older, who have low incomes or are unemployed. At least 75 percent of SCSEP funds will go to provide these individuals with part-time, paid community service-based job training program opportunities throughout the country.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### More than \$67 Million for Native American Employment Programs

The Department’s Employment and Training Administration has released \$67 million in grant funds to 256 organizations through the Workforce Investment Act Indian and Native American Program. “Funding awarded through this competition will directly support American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities to both develop their local economies and prepare workers to meet the needs of promising industries in their region,” said Secretary Solis. The grants will support job training and placement services for adults and at-risk youth.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Departments of Labor, Interior and Agriculture Provide Work for Youth

Leaders from the U.S. Departments of Labor, Interior and Agriculture joined

this July. The seminars are part of the department's Health Benefits Education Campaign designed to help both workers and employers better understand rights and obligations under health benefit laws. The seminars are set to take place on July 14th and 15th at the Holiday Inn Midtown.

- [July 14 & 15 — NY, New York](#)

#### **EBSA — Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program Workshop**

- [July 7, 2010 — Lexington, KY](#)

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- [July 7, 2010 — Lexington, KY](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors**

- [June 25, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance Assistance: Asian Human and Civil Rights Outreach Initiative**

- [June 29, 2010 — San Francisco, CA](#)

#### **OFCCP — Informational & Outreach Forum**

- [July 9, 2010 — El Paso, TX](#)

#### **OSHA — Combustible Dust Virtual Stakeholder Meeting**

- [June 28, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

#### **OSHA — Stakeholder Meeting on Injury and Illness Prevention Program**

- [June 29, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

#### **OWCP — Town Hall Meetings to Assist Nuclear Weapons Workers**

- [June 29, 2010 — Livermore, CA](#)
- [June 30, 2010 — Emeryville, CA](#)

#### **WB — Regional Outreach Meeting**

- [June 29, 2010 — Las Vegas, NV](#)

#### **WHD — Sixth Anniversary of EMPLEO Ceremony**

- [June 29, 2010 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

### **Follow USDOL on**

- Check out the @ [HildaSolisDOL](#) commentary with important guidance on FMLA. @ [theadvocatemag](#) <http://s.dol.gov/3R> 45 minutes ago
- US Labor Secretary Solis announces more than \$78 million for National Farmworker Jobs Program [06/24/2010]

in New York City at the Outdoor Nation Youth Summit last Sunday to announce the launch of a \$20 million federal grant opportunity and implementation of an initiative to help disadvantaged youth prepare for jobs in the outdoors. Through a national grant competition, funds will be awarded to enable ex-offenders ages 18 to 24 to give back to their communities through service and conservation work, while simultaneously acquiring solid employment skills. The grant competition is scheduled to begin this Fall.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### **Solis Announces More Than \$78 Million for Farmworkers**

During a visit to Los Angeles, Secretary Solis announced the awarding of \$78,410,000 in grant funds through the National Farmworker Jobs Program, which provides training and employment services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The program is authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and is designed to counter the impact of chronic unemployment and underemployment experienced by migrant and seasonal farmworkers who depend primarily on agricultural labor jobs.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### **Settlement Restores an Added \$7.8 Million to Pension Plans**

A global settlement agreement obtained last week by the Labor Department provided for recovery of an additional \$7.8 million for the pension plan clients of AA Capital Partners and bars the company from future service to employee benefit plans. According to Assistant Secretary for the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) Phyllis Borzi, "This settlement sends a clear message that we will pursue every avenue to hold accountable those who are entrusted with the assets of America's workers." Assets restored under the settlement are in addition to the \$50 million to be restored by John Orecchio, the firm's president, under a 2009 consent judgment obtained by the department. The department sued the firm, its executives and a related firm for misusing the pension assets of five union funds and charging the plans excessive fees on investments.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## **Opportunities are Open: Wage and Hour**

DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) clarified the definition of "son and daughter" under the Family and Medical Leave Act this week to ensure that more than 100,000 additional children benefit when their parent takes work leave, regardless of their legal or biological relationship. This is the meaningful work that WHD staff is doing every day to enhance the welfare of the nation's workers. Explore the positions below or view all the exciting and rewarding opportunities with DOL.

- [Wage and Hour Compliance Investigator \(Spanish Required\)](#)  
DE-10-PHIL-WHD-0076  
Close: 07/01/2010
- [Wage and Hour Technician \(OA\) Spanish Required](#)  
DE-10-PHIL-WHD-0075  
Close: 06/28/2010
- [Wage and Hour Assistant \(Office Automation\)](#)  
DE-10-DAL-WH-0158  
Close: 06/28/2010

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