

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND  
JANUARY 17, 2008 BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS (\*DENOTES ABSENT)**

|                     |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mario Bueno         | William McGowan | Sandra Powell   |
| Mia Caetano Johnson | Brandon Melton  | Lorna Ricci *   |
| Armeather Gibbs     | Sharon Moylan   | Cathy Streker * |
| Saul Kaplan         | Robert Nangle   | Martin Trueb *  |
| Paul MacDonald      | George Nee      | Jack Warner     |
| Joseph MarcAurele   | Robert Paniccia |                 |

**STAFF:** Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

**GUESTS:** Malcolm Baxter, Paul Harden, Johan Uvin, Ruth Ricciarelli, Joseph McLaughlin, Michael Hogan, Fred Santaniello, Heather Singleton, Linda Katz, Ken Fish John O'Hare, Lori Norris, Robert Ricci, Dottie Miller, Nick Ucci, Lisa D'Agostino, Connie Parks, Donna Treglia, Kathleen. Partington, Ben Copple, David Tremblay, Laura Hart

**LOCATION:** RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT), 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI

With a quorum present, Chair J. MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also welcomed Sandra Powell to the board and acknowledged her appointment as the Interim Director for the Department of Labor and Training (DLT).

A motion was entered to approve the December 17, 2007 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** S. Kaplan moved to approve, seconded by W. McGowan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve December 17, 2007 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes.  
All approved. December 17, 2007 minutes approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair MarcAurele noted that committee reports for Strategic Investments and Planning and Evaluation would occur later in the meeting. He turned the meeting over to Michael Koback for the Director's Report.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

M. Koback thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He mentioned there was a new copy of the GWBRI By-Laws in the meeting packets that were approved at the last board meeting.

M. Koback also welcomed S. Powell and noted she would be a great asset to the board. He mentioned that working with her over the past several years has been very rewarding. He reported that the strategic planning process is moving forward and that the first meeting of the steering committee is scheduled for the next day. This group will be reviewing the plan that was devised by the planning group this past October to better refine outcomes, concepts and measures. M. Koback also reported he is scheduled to participate in a conference call next week with the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) to further discuss the plan of developing focus groups and resource mapping. He indicated that the blueprint of the plan should be completed by June.

## **Election of Vice-Chair**

Chair MarcAurele noted the current Vice-Chair vacancy on the board and the importance of filling this position. He indicated that he asked Bill McGowan to consider this position and noted his acceptance. Chair MarcAurele reported that this decision was based on his engagement and leadership with the Planning and Evaluation Committee as well as in other areas relating to the board's work.

Chair MarcAurele proposed that W. McGowan be elected as Vice-Chair of the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) and entertained a motion to that affect.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve the election of W. McGowan as Vice-Chair of the GWB. All approved. Election of W. McGowan as Vice-Chair approved.

## **Board Appointment**

Chair MarcAurele appointed board member Saul Kaplan to the Planning and Evaluation committee. He also announced that within this committee S. Kaplan will head up a subcommittee to define and address the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. It is intended that the results of the work of this subcommittee will align with the strategic plan. Chair MarcAurele reported that formal announcements around this effort may be forthcoming.

S. Kaplan thanked Chair MarcAurele for the opportunity to work on this committee. He indicated that this effort is important for a number of reasons. For one, it sends a clear message to the marketplace of collaboration among the Governor's Workforce Board, Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and the Department of Labor and Training (DLT). He also indicated that the marketplace will take notice due to the validity of the collaboration and the substantive results that will occur. Most important is the alignment that will occur with economic development strategies that will create a higher wage

innovation economy resulting in higher wage job opportunities for Rhode Islanders at every wage level.

S. Kaplan emphasized the importance of supporting an economic growth plan that aligns the educational and workforce development systems to produce the skills and experience needed to support this plan.

### **CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS1-3)**

M. Koback referred the members to the consent agenda reporting it contains 3 items including:

**1. WIA Consent Agenda:** One Workforce Investment Notice listed for Program Year '07 was issued pursuant to policy regarding flexibility under the Workforce Investment Act to serve military spouses as dislocated workers under the WIA Dislocated Workers formula grant. A hyperlink to detailed information is provided. This was approved by the Planning and Evaluation committee at the last meeting.

**2. Comprehensive Workforce Training Grants:** The Strategic Investments Committee met on January 10th and endorsed staff's recommendation to award \$1,585,437.20 to 77 companies resulting in training to 3,506 employees.

M. Koback also noted that staff will be working with the companies that were not funded, offering technical assistance to increase their chances for future funding. Suggestions about the grant application process will be brought to the Strategic Investments Committee for review and approval.

**3. Industry Skill Development Initiative:** The Strategic Investments Committee meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> approved the recommendation by the Planning & Evaluation Committee to award up to \$1M for the development of an initiative to allow the Local Workforce Investment Boards to align training resources and services with the short- and long-term labor market needs of Rhode Island's high-growth, high-wage industries in collaboration with the Industry Partnerships and netWORKri.

Committee Chair, W. McGowan provided an overview of the intensive work done over a three year period resulting in the creation of the Industry Skill Development Initiative. He noted the successful collaboration between the two local workforce investment boards and netWORKri.

W. McGowan explained the possible leverage of funding available if this initiative is approved. He also noted that the funding for Year 1 would be designated to update the current infrastructure upgrading existing and integrating new technologies at the state's One-Stop Centers. These new technologies will assist in the assessment of skills needed by employers and job seekers and will include multi-lingual on-line skill assessment and training tools.

Chair MarcAurele stated that this initiative is an excellent example of collaboration and planning and a model for future efforts to be undertaken by the board. He commended the achievement of getting disparate parties to collaborate as well as the leveraging of funds the board invested. He acknowledged this watershed accomplishment of the board and staff and thanked everyone for their efforts.

S. Kaplan asked about the funding amount to be approved by the board. Chair MarcAurele explained that the Strategic Investments Committee reviewed a more detailed report on the amount to be expended. M. Koback offered to provide the budget figures to anyone who was interested. W. McGowan responded that the amount of up to \$1 million in funding would be utilized to upgrade the technology. J. O'Hare, Acting Assistant Director of DLT's Workforce Development Division, explained that this initiative would be linked to the Industry Partnership initiatives to develop a strong bond with the sector initiatives and with the strategic plan. He noted that the service module to be implemented within the One-Stop system is based on skills assessment that will provide improved services both to the employer and the employee. He compared the possibility of leveraged funding for this initiative to that of the additional funding secured for the Youth Initiative.

M. Koback clarified that the funding for the Industry Skill Development Initiative not only will provide upgrades of equipment for the One-Stop Centers but will also include the technology needed to assess skills needed by employers and job seekers.

S. Powell added that the intention of the initiative is to create a virtual system to increase the footprint of the workforce development system using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology.

Chairman MarcAurele asked if there were any questions on the Meeting Consent Agenda items.

Hearing none, Chairman MarcAurele entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Items 1-3).

**VOTE on motion to approve:** A. Gibbs moved to approve, seconded by R. Paniccia. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve Consent Agenda (Items 1-3). All approved with the noted exception of S. Powell who recused herself. Consent Agenda approved.

### **Youth Presentation**

Joseph McLaughlin, a Senior Research Associate from the Center for Labor Market Studies of Northeastern University presented "The Collapse of the Nation's Teen Labor Market". The handout entitled "The Collapse of the Nation's Teen Labor Market and the Case for a Revitalized National Summer Youth Employment Program" is on file. A report entitled "The Demise of the Summer Teen Employment Market and the Case for a Revitalized National Summer Jobs and Education Program for the Nation's Teens" is also on file.

## **Committee Reports**

L. Norris presented the RI Youth Initiative Status Report which provided an update of the quarter 1 and quarter 2 outcomes for the Youth Workforce System. This handout entitled "Youth Workforce System Q1 and Q2 Outcomes" is on file.

W. McGowan suggested that the board recognize former Director Adelita Orefice for her work both on the board and for the department.

Chair MarcAurele entered a motion to recognize former Director Orefice with an appreciation award for her service.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by R. Paniccia. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve appreciate award for Director Orefice. All approved. Appreciation award approved.

With no other business to be discussed, Chairman MarcAurele entered a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Governor's Workforce Board.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by R. Paniccia. All approved. Motion to adjourn passes.

**VOTE** to approve adjournment of Governor's Workforce Board meeting. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen F. Mooney