

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**March 18, 2010 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS (\*DENOTES ABSENCE)**

Mario Bueno	Paul MacDonald	George Nee
Mia Caetano Johnson*	William McGowan	Sandra Powell
Robin Coia*	Brandon Melton	Cathy Streker*
Ray DiPasquale	Sharon Moylan	Martin Trueb
Joseph MarcAurele*	Robert Nangle	Pheamo Witcher

**GWB STAFF:** John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

**DLT STAFF:** Chris Grieco, Donna Treglia, Sue Chomka, Connie Parks, Laura Hart, Mavis McGetrick, Maureen Palumbo, Jen Buck, Mary Ellen McQueeny-Lally, David Francis, David Tremblay

**GUESTS:** Janet Raymond, Providence Chamber; Malcolm Baxter, United Way; Ruth Ricciarelli, Center for Health Professions; Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Marguerite McLaughlin, Gail Patry & Marie Stoeckler, Quality Partners; Deborah Anthes, RI Department of Education; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Cheryl DaCosta & Kathie Shields, Tech Collective; Robin Smith, CCRI; Bob Ricci, Providence Cranston Workforce Solutions

**LOCATION:** Department of Labor & Training, conference room 73-1

Vice Chair William McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes from the meeting held on January 21, 2010.

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

**VOTE** to approve January 21, 2010 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. January 21, 2010 meeting minutes approved.

**Vice Chairman's Comments**

Vice Chair McGowan reported that the GWB sent a letter to the Governor requesting that Keith Stokes, the new Director of Economic Development and Commissioner Deborah Gist be appointed to the State Workforce Investment Board.

Vice Chair McGowan announced that Mia Caetano Johnson has submitted her resignation from the board effective April 1, 2010. He indicated that Mia has been on the board since its inception in 2005 and served on the Planning & Evaluation and Board Development committees. He requested that a letter be sent to Mia on behalf of the board thanking her for her service.

Vice Chair McGowan reported that Mario Bueno has been appointed the Executive Director of Progreso Latino and congratulated him on his new position. He turned the meeting over to John O'Hare for the Executive Director's report.

### **Acting Executive Director's Report**

John O'Hare noted that originally it was thought that a waiver from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) would be required for the appointment of Deborah Gist and Keith Stokes to the board. He explained that since the Governor appointed both members to the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) that no waiver is needed.

J. O'Hare mentioned that a waiver request will be going to the U.S. DOL to request that WIA and WIA rapid response funds be utilized for incumbent worker training.

J. O'Hare reported on an upcoming TANF/ARRA program which will be implemented in the state in April or May. He explained that this is a subsidized employment program providing \$43M in funding which must be expended by September 30, 2010. Federal funding will pay for 100% of wages of employees hired under this program where the employer will be required to pay benefit costs. J. O'Hare noted that there was a proposal before Congress which would extend this provision through June 30, 2011 but it was defeated recently in the Senate. He indicated the TANF/ARRA program has a good design and benefits both employers and prospective employees, with the hope that the employers can offer continued employment after the subsidized funding period ends. J. O'Hare indicated he would keep the board informed as information becomes available.

J. O'Hare reported that the potential still exists for a summer youth jobs program through TANF/ARRA even though the bill was recently defeated.

J. O'Hare reported that the RFP for the Defense Industry Partnership will be awarded this summer or early fall. He also mentioned that staff members continue to work on funding changes and on monitoring the cash flow for the Job Development Fund (JDF).

J. O'Hare asked Laura Hart to provide an update on Workforce Development Day at the State House. L. Hart indicated the event is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-4:30 and that this is the second Workforce Development Day event. She noted it is a good awareness event for the General Assembly members and that the Industry Partners, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission members, GWB and DLT staff and GWB grant recipients will be in attendance. She reported that the Governor will be presenting the GWB Innovation Award during this event.

J. O'Hare reported that the GWB Annual Report update is due on April 1, 2010. He explained the different cycles required for the annual report which are both on a calendar year and state fiscal year time frame. He indicated that he was hopeful the requirements for annual reporting purposes would be revised this year.

J. O'Hare reported that the Contextualized Training RFP was released. Bob Ricci reported that ARRA stimulus dollars allow the LWIBs to change their approach to training. He indicated that the RFP targets a portion of funds to the unemployed who are struggling with literacy. The

RFP will target both occupational and literacy skills and will award training on a module basis rather than an individual basis. R. Ricci reported that 130 people attended the pre-proposal conference and that 80 vendors were represented.

J. O'Hare noted that there may be workforce development legislation resulting from the recommendations of the CCRI 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Commission. Ray Di Pasquale provided an update on the work of the Commission and indicated that on April 14, 2010 the full report will be released. He indicated that recommendations in the report will assist in determining how CCRI can play a bigger role with workforce development in the state.

Director Powell indicated that these recommendations will assist in creating a structure for a career pathways system in RI, integrated so that the state moves in a single direction. She noted that this system would be based on the Industry Partnership model, and that there is proposed legislation in process which will codify the structure for a career pathways task force under the purview of the GWB.

Vice Chair McGowan acknowledged the support of Senate President Theresa Paiva-Weed for the recommendations of the commission. He also acknowledged that additional resources would be needed by CCRI to accomplish this work.

### **Approval of GWB By-Laws**

Vice Chair McGowan indicated that since there are no changes in the by-laws a motion is in order to approve them.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** P. MacDonald moved to approve, seconded by S. Powell. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE to approve Governor's Workforce Board By-Laws.** All approved. Governor's Workforce Board By-Laws approved.

### **Consent Agenda (Items 1-4)**

Vice Chair McGowan asked board members to review the consent agenda and noted it includes the WIA consent agenda and items recommended by the committees.

There was a review of Item 2: Youth Funding by John O'Hare in response to a request for clarification by G. Nee.

With no further discussion, Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE to approve the Consent Agenda.** All approved. Consent Agenda approved.

## **Presentation- Tech Collective: Information Technology and Bioscience**

Kathie Shields, Executive Director and Cheryl DaCosta, Manager of Workforce Development Programs provided an update to board members on the work of Tech Collective both in information technology and bioscience. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the board meeting packet.

## **Committee Report Updates**

Vice Chair McGowan asked board chairs for committee reports. S. Moylan gave an update on the Innovation Award and on the GWB Annual meeting. B. Melton mentioned brief updates on the Shared Youth Vision and World of Work (WOW) programs as well as the upcoming summer youth program. R. Di Pasquale noted the upcoming Adult Education and Literacy committee meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He also provided information on the proposed joint nursing program between Rhode Island College and URI. A brief discussion followed. Vice Chair McGowan indicated there were no Strategic Investments or Executive committee meetings held in March. He also reported on the ESAC committee and the decisions that needed to be made regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI) interest payment options and proposals to restore UI trust fund solvency. He also indicated that the ESAC annual report is due on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Other Business**

With no further business, Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** R. Nangle moved to approve. S. Moylan seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney