

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**March 17, 2011 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Mario Bueno	Deborah Gist	Brandon Melton	Keith Stokes*
Robin Coia	Joseph MarcAurele*	Sharon Moylan	Cathy Streker
Ray DiPasquale	Paul MacDonald	Robert Nangle	Martin Trueb
Charles J. Fogarty	William McGowan	George Nee*	Pheamo Witcher

**GWB STAFF:** Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

**DLT STAFF:** Maureen Palumbo, Hector Rivera, Sue Chomka, Marie DeRoche, David Tremblay, Laura Hart, Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally

**GUESTS:** Ray Choinere, RI House Policy; Robin Smith, CCRI; Robert Ricci and Jim Glover, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm Baxter, United Way volunteer; Marguerite McLaughlin, Quality Partners of RI; Rick Brooks, United Nurses Allied Professionals; Todd Flaherty, Children's Crusade; Kayleigh Pratt, RI Senate Fiscal; Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Jeff Polucha, NEIT; Janet Raymond, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce; Allan Tear, Betaspring; Andrea Castaneda, RIDE

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

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Vice Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Vice Chair McGowan reviewed the key agenda items.

**Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on 2/17/11.

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

**VOTE** to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. February 17, 2011 meeting minutes approved.

**GWB Report**

Vice Chair McGowan asked Nancy Olson to present this report since Lisa D'Agostino is on vacation. N. Olson mentioned the committee meetings that occurred since the last board meeting and reported on staff activities. She noted that the Plan Management Team (PMT) continues to meet to update the State Strategic Plan, explaining that this is a combined effort

between the GWB and the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO). N. Olson stated that a planning meeting was held to review the materials and prepare the agenda for the upcoming Career Pathways Task Force meeting.

N. Olson reported that a workforce team of Department of Labor and Training staff has been formed to monitor available grant opportunities and to bring together stakeholders to collaborate on a statewide basis. She reported that L. D'Agostino requested the DLT Legal Department review the Tax Credit Program that is administered by the HRIC to ensure that the GWB is complying with the law. She noted that Dan Brown is the GWB staff person responsible for the coordination of the Tax Credit Program.

N. Olson reported on the networking and collaboration efforts currently underway inside and beyond RIDLT. She indicated that GWB and DLT staff is working with the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants Program. N. Olson stated that the GWB has been working with the 2 local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) on the collaboration of an Innovation grant. CCRI is collaborating as a partner for this application.

N. Olson reported that GWB staff attended the Job Shadow Day sponsored by the Junior Achievement and the RI Hospitality Association in partnership with the Tech Collective. Mayor Tavares and Commissioner Gist were two of the guest speakers. N. Olson mentioned that GWB staff regularly attends a Funders Collaborative meeting which is coordinated by the United Way.

### **Consent Agenda**

Vice Chair McGowan noted there was one item on the consent agenda relating to 3 Workforce Investment Notices (WIN). He stated that because the Planning and Evaluation Committee is not scheduled to meet until early May that the notices were brought before the board for approval. Vice Chair McGowan noted that David Tremblay of the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO) is available to answer any questions on the WINs.

Since there were no questions or any discussion, Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

**VOTE** to approve the consent agenda. All approved. Consent agenda approved.

### **GWB By-Laws**

Vice Chair McGowan stated that the GWB By-Laws were distributed at the February board meeting and that board members were asked to review. He reported that there were no changes recommended and asked for a motion to approve the By-Laws as written.

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

**VOTE** to approve the GWB By-Laws. All approved. GWB By-Laws approved.

### **Presentation: Betaspring**

Vice Chair McGowan introduced Allan Tear from Betaspring. He noted that Betaspring went before the Strategic Investments Committee last year asking for support to expand their successful Startup Accelerator Program. Vice Chair McGowan reported that the Strategic Investments Committee and the Board approved a two year commitment of approximately \$150K per year. Vice Chair McGowan noted that the first year of the program is completed and that A. Tear will explain how the program continues to expand with the assistance of the GWB and other collaborators.

A. Tear provided an overview of the Startup Accelerator Program and discussed results of the 2010 program. Some of the highlighted results include \$5.5M that was raised, 40-50 jobs created and partnerships with local companies including Ximedica, CVS, RI Student Loan Association and Tech Collective. He noted the national momentum achieved by Betaspring including membership in the TechStars Network and recognition by President Obama in a Startup America Partnership. He reviewed Betaspring's expansion strategy. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was made available in the meeting packet.

### **Committee Updates**

Vice Chair McGowan asked committee chairs to present the committee reports.

#### **Adult Education**

Committee Chair Di Pasquale reported that there were no adult education meetings and the next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2011.

#### **Board Development Committee**

Committee Chair Sharon Moylan reported that the Board Development Committee met following the last board meeting and continues to plan the annual meeting to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the theme of the meeting is the Power of Partnerships. The save- the- date email notices will be sent at the end of March. L. Hart reported that approval has been received for the videographer who will create a video on the Power of Partnerships.

#### **Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF)**

Committee Chair Brandon Melton reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CPSTF will be held on March 24, 2011 and that the Labor Market Unit (LMI) of DLT is preparing a one hour presentation for this meeting. He indicated that key performance objectives will be reviewed as well as a framework and criteria for career pathways. There will also be a review of best practices for career pathways across the country.

#### **Executive and Strategic Investments Committee**

Vice Chair reported for Chair MarcAurele indicating that both committees did not meet in March and that the next meetings will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Planning & Evaluation Committee**

Committee Chair McGowan reported on the March 1, 2011 Planning and Evaluation Committee and noted that the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) was reviewed with staff of the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO). He noted there was a broad discussion and that many questions were asked by committee members. It was decided that an internal workgroup that was formed in October 2010 would continue to meet and review the ETPL. This workgroup consists of staff from the local WIBS and the SWIO and is currently working on how best to implement a performance based evaluation of training providers. Committee Chair McGowan noted this type of evaluation is used with adult basic education providers. Chair McGowan stated that any updates from this workgroup will be brought back to the board.

## **Youth Development Committee**

Committee Chair Melton provided an update on several items of the Youth Development committee from the meeting of February 18<sup>th</sup> including an update on the Statewide WIA/JDF Youth Programs, WIA Standalone RFP responses, JDF summer program RFP and the Career Technical After School program.

## **Old/New Business**

Vice Chair McGowan asked Director Fogarty for any updates on DLT and GWB. C. Fogarty mentioned the release of the Governor's budget and that the Job Development Fund (JDF) was in tact. He noted the \$10M proposed to fund higher education noting the future of the workforce is dependent on the educational attainments of the workforce. He stated that Chair MarcAurele will be meeting with the Governor next week and that within the next 3 months, a fulltime Executive Director should be in place. He acknowledged the hard work of Lisa D'Agostino as Acting Executive Director, an additional role along with her position of Deputy Director. C. Fogarty mentioned that the Governor visited the netWORKri office in Pawtucket and was highlighting the budget. He noted the reduction of resources both nationally and statewide, and that DLT staff will be meeting to proactively identify grant resources for workforce development purposes.

Janet Raymond, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce asked Vice Chair McGowan for the opportunity to speak about the Request for Proposals on Developing a Knowledge Based Economy. She noted that the Innovation Providence Implementation Council (IPIC) is issuing this RFP in order to further develop the knowledge economy in the greater Providence region, as a way to create jobs and help spur economic development. She noted the goal is to strengthen and grow the regional knowledge economy sectors including health care, technology, entrepreneurship, research and design and alternative energy. J. Raymond stated that the deadline for proposals is April 15, 2011 and that extra points will be given for having a workforce development component to any proposal submitted. A copy of the RFP will be forwarded to board members.

Vice Chair McGowan asked Robin Smith of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) for an update on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant. She noted the grant is due on April 21, 2011 and that a key component of the grant is a focus on increasing the capacity of community colleges for the attainment of degrees, certificates and other industry-recognized credentials. She noted the important collaboration with organizations such as Stepping Up, the Tech Collective and DLT and LMI staff.

Vice Chair McGowan asked that the LMI publication "Rhode Island Employment Trends and Workforce Issues 2010" be sent to board members for their information.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney