

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
August 23, 2012

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES NOT PRESENT)

Mario Bueno*	Juana Horton (S)	Robert Nangle (S)
Robin Coia	Constance A. Howes	George Nee
Ray DiPasquale (S)*	Paul MacDonald*	Cathy Streker*
Charles J. Fogarty (S)*	William McGowan	Martin Trueb
Deborah Gist (S)*	Brandon Melton	Pheamo Witcher
Mike Grey	Sharon Moylan (S)	

(S) denotes State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) only

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff: Laura Hart, Bob Garofano, Matt Weldon, Sean Fontes, Sue Chomka, Diane Vendetti, Paul Genovesi, Carlos Ribeiro

Guests: Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Judy Jones, Economic Progress Institute; Janet Raymond, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Mark Perrotti, Jim Glover, Anne Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Dante Del Guidice, RIC; Harsha Prakash, RIMES; Elizabeth Jardine; Joel Garcia, Sue Kehoe, Cynthia O'Malley, Preservation Society of Newport County; Steve Dolce, East Bay Community Action Program; Emilio Verdone, Karen Paolucci, Yushin America; Meghan Nhar, Cranston Community Action Program

Location: Conference room 73-1

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Governor's Workforce Board meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on June 21, 2012.

VOTE on motion to approve: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by M. Grey. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. June 21, 2012 meeting minutes approved.

Sean Fontes, Executive Counsel, asked for declarations on any of the voting matters before the board for conflicts of interest. He explained that board members should avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest according to the RI State Code of Ethics. He stated that board members who disclose a conflict should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion. He mentioned that a conflict of interest disclosure form, which is available from GWB staff, should be completed. Pheamo

Witcher stated she had a conflict of interest on the consent agenda relating to adult education funding.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes mentioned the recent health concerns of Commissioner Gist. She asked that an acknowledgement and best wishes be sent to the Commissioner.

Chair Howes reminded board members of the upcoming board retreat scheduled for October 3rd at the Save the Bay facility from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. She indicated that the retreat will focus on further developing and refining the funding strategies of the board. She stated that the Biennial Plan will be previewed at the September board meeting and finalized at the board retreat.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide the Executive Director's Report. R. Brooks mentioned the new reporting responsibilities of the GWB including the Unified Program and Expenditure Report and the Biennial Plan. He noted that these new responsibilities prompted the need for a new staff position for the GWB. He indicated that position was advertised, posted and that interviews were held. R. Brooks stated that this position will oversee the planning and evaluation process of GWB funding investments, the submission of the Unified Program and Expenditure Report and the Biennial and Strategic Plans. He introduced Elizabeth Jardine as the recently hired Chief of Program Development and stated she will begin work on September 10th.

R. Brooks also provided updates on the Biennial Plan, the USDOL Workforce Innovations grant and the GWB Jobs Initiatives.

Consent Agenda – Human Resource Investment Council

Chair Howes referred to Item 1 of the HRIC consent agenda regarding the Manufacturing Industry Partnership noting that funding in the amount of up to \$100,000 was approved by the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee for RI Manufacturing Extension Services (RIMES). R. Brooks welcomed Harsha Prakash, Chief Executive Officer of RIMES, who was in attendance.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the Manufacturing Industry Partnership as presented.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve Manufacturing Industry Partnership as presented. All approved. Manufacturing Industry Partnership approved.

Chair Howes referred to Item 2 of the HRIC consent agenda pertaining to additional FY13 investments. She referred to attachment A which lists currently budgeted programs and the proposal for initiatives to be funded by the restored \$2.3M from the JDF. She noted that \$1.4M is proposed for Innovation Grants to support partnerships and encourage innovation within the workforce system. Chair Howes noted the proposal for these grants would be furthered discussed and developed through the work of the board retreat. She asked for questions and further discussion.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the additional FY13 investments as presented.

VOTE on motion to approve: B. Melton moved to approve the additional FY13 Investments and items 3 and 4 of the consent agenda, seconded by W. McGowan. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve additional FY13 investments and items 3 and 4 of the consent agenda as presented. All approved except Pheamo Witcher who abstained from voting on the additional FY13 investments due to a conflict of interest relating to adult education funding. Additional FY13 investments and items 3 and 4 of the consent agenda were approved.

Consent Agenda – State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB)

Item 1: Funding Formula Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Board

Chair Howes referred to Item 1 on the SWIB consent agenda pertaining to the sub-state allocation of WIA funds. She stated that the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee heard from both local WIBS on this issue and that DLT staff reviewed operations related to the funding formula. She noted that the findings showed that both LWIBs did an effective job with limited funds and that a sufficiently compelling public interest has not been demonstrated to adopt the alternative funding formula requested by Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC). She further explained that it is the role of the Board to advise the Governor of this. Vice Chair William McGowan agreed that there is no compelling reason to change the formula but that the GWB will continue to work with both LWIBs. He referred to the letter in the meeting packet from Janet Raymond regarding this matter and indicated that the diminishing resources of both LWIBs are an issue that will continue to be discussed.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve consent agenda Item 1 as presented.

VOTE on motion to approve: M. Trueb moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the recommendation for consent agenda item 1 for the alternative funding formula as presented. All approved. Recommendation for the alternative funding formula approved as presented.

A discussion followed. A suggestion was offered that there be an attempt by the GWB/DLT to advocate for both LWIBs. Matt Weldon was asked to comment on the need for increased federal support for WIA funds. M. Weldon stated that Director Fogarty and he have met with the congressional delegation in Washington and they are aware of the struggle the State of Rhode Island is facing. He indicated that the RI delegation is supportive of the need for increased funding, however they are encountering some road blocks in Washington. He noted the important work of Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse in their attempt to bring federal dollars back to the state.

George Nee suggested that the GWB should be a catalyst for change on the issue of diminishing funds and that the GWB should be more involved in public policy. He stated that the State of Rhode Island spends no money for job training from general revenue and suggested the board needs to advocate for training dollars. Brandon Melton noted

his agreement and suggested that the board look at other states and how they are investing in training for workforce development. He questioned if the private funding organizations in Rhode Island have stepped up to provide investments in training.

Chair Howes referred to the SWIB consent agenda items 2-12 which listed 11 Workforce Investment Notices (WINs). She asked if there were any questions or discussion and indicated Paul Genovesi of the State Workforce Investment Office was available to answer any questions.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve consent agenda items 2-12 as presented.

VOTE on motion to approve: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve WIN notices. All WIN notices approved.

GWB Highlights: Youth Summer Employment

Chair Howes asked Robin Coia, Chair of the Youth Development Committee to provide an overview of the highlights of the summer youth employment program. R. Coia spoke of 3 recent worksite visits she attended which included the New Urban Farmer's Community Garden in Pawtucket, the Boy's and Girl's Club of Providence (Fox Point) and the Living History project in Roger Williams Park. She spoke of the commitment and dedication of the employer, the youth center managers and the youth involved with the summer programs. R. Coia spoke of the work experience gained by the youth workers with the summer placements particularly in developing work readiness skills.

There was an introduction and overview provided by two employers who participated in the summer youth program: the Preservation Society of Newport County and Yushin America. Representatives participating with the program offered by the Preservation Society included Sue Kehoe, Manager; Cynthia O'Malley, Director of Retail Sales; Steve Dolce, Case Manager of the East Bay Community Action Program and Joel Garcia, a youth participant in the summer program. Representatives participating with the program offered by Yushin America included Karen Paolucci, Human Resources; Meghan Nhar, Cranston Youth Center Manager –Cranston Community Action Program and Emilio Verdone, a youth participant in the summer program.

Committee Chair Reports

Chair Howes asked Committee Chairs for reports from the Employer Committee and from the Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF).

Employer Committee

Martin Trueb reported that the committee has been meeting regularly and finalized the mission statement. He noted that a key component of the mission statement is to find those employers who do not currently have access to state programs. He noted the connection made with local Chambers of Commerce to obtain feedback on how to find organizations that could be brought into the loop. He indicated a next step is to send representatives from the Employer Committee to Chamber of Commerce meetings to inform them of the resources available to them and to obtain feedback. He stated the next step will be to create the Employer Advisory Group.

Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF)

Brandon Melton reported that the CPSTF met in July and provided an overview of the partnerships developing around career pathways with DLT, RIDE, Higher Education and others. He noted a developing partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), particularly with the recent receipt of federal grants that are focusing on career pathways: the PACE grant, the Workforce Innovations grant and the RIDE data management grant. He noted that the funding for these three federal grants totals approximately \$10M. B. Melton stated that the CPSTF leadership team consisting of Andrea Castaneda, Robin Smith, Rick Brooks and himself are currently working on how to align the work of the 3 federal grants so as not to duplicate the work and to maximize the investment. He spoke of the successful IT and Healthcare demonstration projects and the outreach to all of the Industry Partners. He indicated the goal is to mainstream the career pathways work into all sectors of the workforce development system. He stated the next meeting of the task force is September 13th.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: B, Melton moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney