

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND

February 21, 2013

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, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff: Diane Gagne, Sean Fontes, Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Connie Parks, Donna Murray, Sue Chomka

Guests: Irena Nedeljkovic, Economic Progress Institute; Robert Ricci, Tony Lucca, Richard Beneduce, Mark Perrotti, Ann Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Jill Holloway, Adult Education Professional Development Center; Michael Hogan, RI House Policy Office; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Abby Swienton, Governor's Office, Armeather Gibbs and Paul Harden, RIEDC; Heidi Collins, Connecting for Children & Families; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Tim Hebert, Atrion; Janet Raymond, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce; Robin Smith, CCRI; Gail Mance-Rios and Sonia Rodrigues, RIHEAA; Tim Byrone; Manuela Raposo, Dorcas Institute; Karen Bradbury, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's Office.

Location: RI Department of Labor and Training, conference room 73-1

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Governor's Workforce Board meeting. She reported that the Governor was unable to attend as planned.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on January 17, 2013.

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

VOTE to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. January 17, 2013 meeting minutes approved.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes provided an overview of the agenda items including an update on the Governor's Work Immersion Program and Biennial Plan. She noted there would be two presentations: the first by Kevin Flynn, Associate Director of the State Division of Planning and the second by Robert Ricci, Nancy Olson and Sue Chomka from the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB) and DLT Workforce Development Services. Chair Howes mentioned the GWB Annual meeting to be held on May 16th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. She indicated that companies who participated in the Incumbent Worker Training Grants would be invited and that some of the companies that participated in the youth internship program component would be featured in a video. She mentioned there would be a presentation of the GWB Innovation Award.

GWB Board Meeting

2-21-13

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide the Executive Director's report. R. Brooks provided an update on the Innovative Partnership grant noting 31 qualified proposals were received. He stated that the reading and scoring process occurs next and that the awards will be brought to the March 13th Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee meeting and then to the board for approval.

R. Brooks reported that up to 11 Express Grants will be reviewed within the next week. He mentioned that more than 13,000 new and small businesses in Rhode Island will receive a post card providing details on this new grant initiative.

R. Brooks reported that the GWB Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee will be meeting on March 13th to discuss and develop the FY2014 funding categories which will be brought to the board at the March 21st meeting. R. Brooks indicated there will be discussion about future funding for the annual Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Incumbent Worker Training Grants and for the monthly Express Grants. He indicated that funding requests for the summer youth employment program and youth centers would also be discussed.

R. Brooks reported that the GWB website has been upgraded and offers many new interactive features. He reported that there is one GWB vacancy pending and that 39 resumes were received for the vacant position of GWB Chief of Operations & Development.

Governor's Work Immersion Program Update

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the Governor's Work Immersion Program. R. Brooks provided an overview of the program noting the proposed funding would be \$1M for FY2013 and \$2M for FY2014. He noted that the Work Immersion Program could offer temporary, paid work experience for post-secondary school students and unemployed adults. He noted the benefits of this program for both the employer and the participants including a 50% wage subsidy for employers. R. Brooks mentioned the non-trade apprenticeship program and competitive funding which could be awarded annually to support the creation of at least one new initiative proposed and operated by the GWB Industry Partnerships. He noted this program would be subject to the approval of the State Apprenticeship Council to be consistent with statutory standards.

Biennial Plan Progress Report

Chair Howes asked Elizabeth Jardine to provide an update on the Biennial Plan Progress Report. E. Jardine reported that the plan was submitted to the legislature on November 1st and contained input from the stakeholders of several state agencies and workforce development organizations throughout the state. E. Jardine summarized the action steps for the GWB major priorities for fiscal years 2014-2015 including employer partnership, work-readiness, career pathways and the public workforce system. A discussion followed on the topics of employer expectations, a work readiness credential and graduation requirements. Deborah Gist asked for support from the GWB on the policy surrounding graduation requirements which will go into effect for the class of 2014. She spoke about the importance of these requirements in preparing students for college and/or the workforce. A question was raised if RIDE needed a formal motion of support from the board for the new graduation requirements. A discussion followed. M. Grey suggested that RIDE present further information on the graduation requirements at a future board meeting noting its importance in developing a comprehensive workforce plan for the state. George Nee suggested that the other perspective on the graduation requirements be presented to the board. Chair Howes asked D. Gist if it would be possible for RIDE to present this information at the March GWB board meeting.

Committee Chair Reports

Adult Education & Literacy Committee

Chair Howes asked Ray DiPasquale to report on the Adult Education & Literacy Committee. R. DiPasquale provided an overview of the agenda items from the January meeting. He reported that Philip Less presented several reports containing data about adult education enrollment and performance trends, JDF and RIDE funding allocations for programs and federal performance measures. He spoke about the new GED requirements and the implications surrounding the

implementation of the test. He asked that the reports and information from the January meeting be sent to board members for their information.

Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF)

Chair Howes asked Brandon Melton to report on the Career Pathways System Task Force. B. Melton reported that the CPSTF met on February 7th. He stated that the taskforce has moved into a new stage after two years of work. He indicated the taskforce will provide oversight to the work done by the state for career pathways which would align closely with the work of the Workforce Innovation Grant. He noted that at the last CPSTF meeting, reports were presented on the Workforce Innovation Grant, longitudinal data collection methods, exploring career and technical schools for career pathways and the workforce readiness credential. B. Melton stated the next meeting is scheduled for May 9th.

Employer Committee

Chair Howes asked Martin Trueb to report on the Employer Committee. M. Trueb commented on the excellent attendance at the initial meeting of the Employer Advisory Group. He mentioned that representation of employers covered a wide cross section of industry. He indicated that the agenda items presented included an overview of the Governor's Workforce Board, a general discussion on employer workforce needs, feedback on training grant programs and information offered on the Governor's Work Immersion Plan and EmployRI. M. Trueb commented that in several of the meetings surrounding the Employer Committee, there has been discussion about manufacturing jobs and the need to encourage students and others to consider career pathways in this industry. He spoke of the negative connotations often affiliated with manufacturing jobs. He suggested enhancing partnerships with the career and technical schools to advise students of the advanced skills and well paying jobs and careers offered in the manufacturing industry.

Presentation: "An Equity Profile of Rhode Island" and "Economy RI: Economic Development Data Analysis & Assessment"

Chair Howes introduced Kevin Flynn, Associate Director of the RI Division of Planning, and stated he will be providing an overview of two reports: "An Equity Profile of Rhode Island" and "Economy RI: Economic Development Data Analysis & Assessment". K. Flynn provided highlights of the reports to the board indicating they analyze RI's economic data and examine issues of economic fairness in the state.

Presentation: Local Workforce Investment Boards and netWORKri Information

Chair Howes introduced Robert Ricci of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC), Nancy Olson of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island (WPGR) and Sue Chomka of DLT Workforce Development Services. There was a presentation about the RI workforce development system. The partnerships among the GWB, WSPC and WPGR and the netWORKri offices were highlighted and the composition of both Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) were presented. Information was presented on workforce development service delivery, employer and job seeker services, and job matching through EmployRI.

Adjournment

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

VOTE: P. MacDonald moved to approve. S. Moylan seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney