

Governor's Workforce Board

Rhode Island



Today's Vision... Tomorrow's Opportunity.

Board Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2016

RI Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Ave, Cranston, RI
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members (*Denotes not present)

Suzanna Alba, *Mario Bueno, Timothy Byrne, Channavy Chhay, Robin Coia, Monica Dzialo, Chair Constance A. Howes, John Gregory, Mike Grey, Vice-Chair Stefan Pryor, Scott Jensen, Steve Kitchin, *Paul MacDonald, *Cheryl Merchant, George Nee, Janet Raymond, Nina Pande, Susan Rittscher, *Bahjat Shariff, * Martin Trueb, *Ken Wagner.

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Paul Genovesi, Kristen McKenna, Amelia Roberts.

DLT Staff: Joseph Agresti, Scott Greco, Diane Gagne, Robert Kalaskowski, Sean Fontes, Michael Martins, Nancy Olson, Richard Palmieri, Lisa D'Agostino.

Guests: Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Alexis Stern, UWRI; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Ruth Gobeille, Polaris MEP; Doug Tingle, OPC; Cheryl DeCosta, Tech Collective; Vanessa Cooley, RIDE; Tim Harrigan, Linda Katz, Linda Soderberg, Jason Menard, Exeter Job Corps; Elaina Goldstein, Mary Davidson Reed, Salve Regina; Mehgan Nhar, Manyone Keomeuang, CCAP; Richard LaFerriere, CVS; Madina Smith, training participant; Ann Walsh, Workforce Solutions Providence-Cranston.

Call to Order

Chair Constance Howes called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board meeting held on Thursday, April 21, 2016.

VOTE: Steve Kitchin moved to approve, seconded by George Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes highlighted the following:

- GWB Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, in the Ball Room
- Video Presentation
- Keynote Speaker will be Donald F. Kettl, Professor at the University of Maryland
- GWB Innovation Award will be presented to RI Marine Trades

Chair Howes announced Rick Brooks was leaving the GWB to work with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Chair Howes asked the Board for a motion to approve a vote expressing their appreciation to Rick for his outstanding service to the Governor's Workforce Board since November 2011. During his tenure, he led the efforts to:

- Raise awareness to the programs supported and funded by the state;
- Change the direction and focus efforts on meeting the needs of employers;

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- Strengthen the Industry Partner Program;
- Implement a streamlined, rolling application processes for incumbent worker training grants;
- Improve youth opportunities and access to essential job skills training; and,
- Implement the Work Immersion Program for unemployed adults, college students and recent college graduates.

George noted that everyone is thankful and appreciative.

VOTE: John Gregory moved to approve, seconded by George Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update. Rick stated he was very thankful to serve as the Executive Director for the Governor's Workforce Board. He is looking forward to his new role working with Executive Office of Health and Human Services. He reported:

- Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program is going well. The implementation of the rolling IWTG process has been effective in meeting business demand. To date, 122 IWTG grants have been awarded. Since July 2015, \$1.4 million has been awarded and a total of 3,600 workers have been trained.
- RI Work Immersion Program continues to be a popular program. To date, 208 college students and 87 Career and Tech students have been serviced.
- 207 employers participated in the netWORKri Innovation Partnerships.
- The Summer Youth Program is ready to launch.
- Partnering with the CTEs schools in Providence, Newport, Woonsocket, and Chariho continues - four schools are open after hours.
- Workforce Innovation Grant will be funded for one year.
- Industry Partnerships: Most IP's have transitioned to a Real Jobs RI Partnership. Funding will continue for those that are not in a RJRI partnership. The next meeting will be held in June 2016.

Committee Chairs' Reports

Employer Committee

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update. Rick noted the committee met and will focus on planning a forum with the new President of the Community College of Rhode Island, Meghan Hughes, sometime in June 2016.

Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee

Chair Howes asked committee Chair Mike Grey to provide an update. Mike provided some program highlights:

- Workforce Innovation Grants: grants will be extended for one year.
- A New Youth Initiative: Internship for out-of-school youth, 17-24 years old.

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- In development: a strategic policy around Incumbent Worker Training (Rolling) and Real Jobs RI including a review of the matching requirements, coordination and possible braiding of the programs. RJRI doesn't require the 50/50 match. Chair Howes also highlighted some of these issues and considerations around the need for an employer match and the importance of performance outcomes.
- One Board member noted the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act also allows for Incumbent Worker training and would like to see a broader conversation that includes the two LWIBs and how WIOA too will implement Incumbent Worker training.

Workforce Innovation Grant Presentation: CCAP and CVS

Chair Howes asked Meghan Nhar, CCAP Coordinator; Manyone Keomeuang, CCAP Case Manager; Richard LaFerriere, CVS Employer Partner; Medina Smith, Training Participant to provide an update.

Overview of program: Served 60 unemployed or underemployed participants aged 16-24. Program is located at CCAP's Providence Skills Center located at Providence Place Mall. It is a four-week program, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Participants complete Work Readiness, NCRC, and NRF credential.

Part 1: Funded for 40 participants: National Retail Federation (NRF) Customer Service/Sales Credential program

- 42 enrolled, 35 NRF passed
- 40 completed Work Readiness, NCRC and 31 obtained the NCRC Certificate
- 11 completed an 80-hour work experience (examples: RI Furniture Bank, Arte Arts, Pinkberry, Division Brakes, Savers, and Education in Action)
- 23 enter employment, 11 participants continue to receive services to assist them in securing employment

Part 2: NRF Management Program: Funded for 20 participants

- 12 employees from CVS are currently enrolled and will have NCRC and NRF Management credentials. Program started on April 6th. They meet Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the CVS, Warwick Ave.,

in

an on-site training classroom. Program credentials will be given on May 27th. A second class will begin in June.

Presentation: Exeter Job Corps Academy (EJCA)

Chair Howes asked Jason Menard, Center Director, and Linda Soderberg, Center Deputy Director to provide an update. Linda has been with the program located in Exeter RI since 2004. The Exeter Job Corps Academy opened on January 4, 2005.

Overview of program:

- A voluntary, federally funded program that serves disadvantaged youth ages 16-24, and is a 24-hour run operation.
- 127 Centers, Adams & Associates manages 13 centers including Exeter, RI.
- Transportation is provided to the program from downtown Providence

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- On-site: housing, instruction, counseling, recreation, and wellness services.
- GED and high school diplomas are offered.
- The average student is 20 years old, a high school dropout, economically disadvantaged, unemployed or underemployed and there is off-site support for young pregnant women.
- Average length of stay, 11 months but maximum length can be two years depending upon the individual and course of study.
- Until January 1999, RI was one of four states without a Job Corps Center.
- Serve 200 residential students. The academy is located on 23 acres of the former Ladd Center in Exeter.
- Typically 85% of students served are from RI, but currently we are serving 78% and in the past it has slipped to 68%.
- EJCA's occupational training consists of: Office Admin, Security & Protective Services, Manufacturing Tech, Welding Tech, Basic Culinary Arts, Advanced Culinary Arts, Construction Tech and Health Occupations Tech.
- Industry Certifications such as: SERVSafe-Food Handlers, Managers, CNA, Homebuilders.
- Academic Certification: GED Preparation and testing, high school diploma courses, ESL/ELL support classes has seen a significant increases.
- Personal Growth & Development Training such as: Leadership Skills Training, Customer Skills training, Northstar Technology Certificate – (Basic Computer Skills). Personal Finance – Ever FI (Governor Supports), Community Service and Leadership Service are both required to graduate. These are all on-campus or off-campus programs.
- Full Service Recreation Program consists of: Arts & Cultural events, Female-Specific Programming, Personal Development Groups and Competitive Sports programming.
- Local Support: Workforce Council, Community Relations Council. The state does require an industry council.
- Job Corps provides an excellent in-state opportunity for RI Youth.
- Graduates are well-trained and motivated young men and women seeking entry-level career opportunities. All Career Technical Training Programs have state and national certifications.
- Job Corps is student driven: Follow students one year after graduation.
- 90% enrollment, 13% drop out rate, graduation at 80%.
- Partnership with Brown University and University of RI for Internships.

Job Corp is seeking collaboration with the workforce system efforts and participation in boards and committees addressing workforce education and training options.

The GWB Board members noted they were very pleased with the presentation and the outcomes from Exeter Job Corps.

Adjournment

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

VOTE: Scott Jensen moved to approve, seconded by Nina Pande. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown