

HUMAN RESOURCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

September 28, 2004 Meeting

MINUTES

Attendance

Council Members (*denotes absent)

Kip Bergstrom	Senator Beatrice Lanzi
Sherry Campanelli (rep. for J. Hayward)*	Paul MacDonald*
Donalda Carlson (rep. for S. Campanelli)	Michael McMahon*
Bob Cooper	Peter McWalters*
Larry Davidson	Rep. Paul Moura*
Karla Driscoll	George Nee
Todd Flaherty (rep. for P. McWalters)*	Adelita Orefice
Vanessa Cooley (rep. for P. McWalters)	Raymond Rainville*
John Gregory*	Marcia Reback
Gary Grove	Tom Sepe (rep. for J. Warner)*
Paul Harden (rep. for M. McMahon)	Marcia Sullivan*
Jane Hayward*	Jack Warner*
William Holmes	
Steven Kitchin	
Seth Kurn	

Staff: L. D'Agostino, G. Guardino, M. McGetrick, Lori DelRossi, M. McDowell, V. Lombardi, J. Glover, M. Koback, R. Ricci, S. Petrarca, D. Miller, M. Hayes, R. Manzo

Others: J. Nugent (UWSNE), J. Peters (UWSNE), L. Warren

Place: 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 73, Conference Room 1

Time: With a quorum present, Vice Chairman Grove called the meeting to order at 8:12 AM.

Agenda Items

Vice Chairman Grove welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced there would be no further Council meetings until the December meeting, which will be a luncheon meeting for outgoing Council members.

I. Approval of Minutes for the June Meeting

A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the June Meeting.

VOTE: The motion was entered by Ms. Reback, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.
The motion passed.

II. Comments from the Vice Chair

Vice Chairman Grove stated that at the June Council Meeting, it was the expectation that the Council would meet in September to look at the new budget figures based on additional JDF revenues and de-obligations and decide in what areas the revenue would be spent. He then passed out a handout of a chart listing the four grant programs, giving a description of each, how each was administered, program benefits, what each program requested for FY 05, what they received, and current availability.

III. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Orefice thanked members for attending. She stated that she will remain Executive Director of the Council until the new members are brought on board, which will probably be by spring, 2005. The

Governor's Office is taking nominations for the new Council. In terms of the transition, she stated that a program is being set up with The National Center for Education and the Economy (NCEE) for board development; and also to look at regionally and nationally the best practices to connect workforce development with economic development. Guest speakers would be brought in, etc. Ms. Orefice stated that the objective was to put together a board that will be able to do the best job for Rhode Island.

Mr. Cooper commented on the separation of powers provision in the legislation which prohibits General Assembly members from serving on boards, but the federal Workforce Investment Act requires a few Assembly members to serve on its board. Ms. Orefice stated that there were several options, to either make the Workforce Investment Act a subcommittee of the Council or to request a waiver from the feds.

Ms. Orefice announced that there were copies of the Literacy Task Force Recommendations to the Governor, which he has accepted, available to be handed out. Regarding the Adult Basic Education budget for FY'05, the RFP has been issued and grants will be awarded soon. The priority is getting as much money out on the street as possible. A public search is being conducted nationally for two Adult Basic Education people, including an executive director. A search committee is being put together for that purpose.

IV. Update on the Status of the Job Development Fund

Mr. Hayes was asked to report on additional revenues available after all obligations have been met. He passed a handout listing all of the Council's obligations, and stated that an additional \$370,197 in revenue was available. Mr. Grove reported that if the Council decided to put the additional revenue into Excellence Through Training Grant (ETTG) Program, 17 more companies could be funded who scored 85 or above for \$356,413. Nine of the companies are manufacturers.

V. General Discussion – HRIC FY05 Funding Priorities

A motion was entered to put the additional revenue of \$370,000 available into ETTG.

VOTE: The motion was entered by Mr. Bergstrom, seconded by Ms. Driscoll.

Discussion followed. Mr. Kurn stated that he was not comfortable voting on this issue now, and wanted to know what was the rush. He felt the issue should be discussed in a smaller group setting whereby all the programs could be considered. Ms. Orefice stated there were grantees who wanted closure to this conversation. Mr. Davidson discussed the Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), and felt they should receive additional funds for support of the Employee Investment Grants. The United Way Making It Work program was discussed, in terms of our three year funding commitment to them concerning their \$50,000 request which will take them to June, 2005. Mr. Davidson felt that the Employee Investment Grants should receive \$155,000 with the remaining money going to ETTG. It was Mr. Cooper's contention that all the programs be considered for additional funding. Mr. Nee felt that we could look at this issue again in three months, since we are still de-obligating.

Mr. Bergstrom accepted Mr. Davidson's friendly amendment to give Providence/Cranston WIB support \$35,000; Greater Rhode Island WIB support \$70,000; United Way Making It Work \$50,000; and ETTG \$200,000 of the \$370,000 additional funds available leaving a balance of \$15,000.

VOTE: The motion was entered by Mr. Bergstrom, seconded by Mr. Davidson.
The motion passed with Mr. Kitchin and Senator Lanzi abstaining.

VI. Committee Reports

School to Career

Mr. Grove announced the departure of Linda Soderberg who has taken a position with Job Corps. The September meeting was called to address Ms. Soderberg's resignation as the Director and to review

proposals for the allocation of the remaining School to Career Transitional Funding. Ms. Orefice was asked to report on the status of the reorganization of the RI HRIC, pertaining to expected sustainability of School to Career.

VII. Other Business/Adjourn

Larry Davidson reported on the Project Hope initiative conducted at Hope High School which assisted 27 kids this summer, and requested support for the program's continuation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell