

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD - RI

October 6, 2005 Meeting

MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members (*denotes absent)

Mario Bueno

Armeather Gibbs

Joseph MarcAurele

Michael McMahan

Sharon Moylan

George Nee

Robert Paniccia

Martin Trueb

Deborah Wilson*

Mia Caetano

Paul MacDonald*

William McGowan

Brandon Melton

Robert Nangle

Adelita Orefice

Lorna Ricci

Jack Warner

Staff: M. Koback, M. McGetrick, L. DelRossi, M. McDowell, Val Lombardi,

Guests: J. Titzel, J. Durfee-Hidalgo, K. Bergstrom, Bob Ricci, J. Glover

DLT Staff: S. Powell, J. O'Hare, D. Miller, M. Demers, D. Treglia, K. Partington, B. Irish, S. Petrarca, J. Soprano

Place: netWORKri, One Reservoir Avenue

Time: With a quorum present, Chairman MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:25 AM

Chairman MarcAurele welcomed and introduced members Sharon Moylan and Robert Nangle since they were unable to attend the Orientation Meeting in September.

Mr. MarcAurele stated that the meeting would be centered on the assignment of board members to six priority task teams. The goal is to involve members on one or more of those teams to address the work between now and the next full meeting, which will probably be held in January. Mr. MarcAurele added that each of the task teams has a staff person assigned to help prepare materials, conduct research, facilitate meetings, etc.

Chairman MarcAurele then provided a general overview of the team assignments describing how staff polled the members in terms of what task team they wanted to serve on and added that, as expected, many members chose the same team. He noted that staff's involvement was limited to adding up the numbers. As a result, Mr. MarcAurele made the final decision on team assignments, taking into consideration members' choice, experience and areas of expertise. He stated that if any member had reservations or strong feelings about their team assignment, he would be willing to discuss it personally. His added that his sense was that once work began on task areas, some of them would be

completed and eliminated and members would be reassigned to permanent committees. Finally, he urged members to serve on the task team they were assigned so the real work of the Board could go forward.

Adelita Orefice reported on the staff retreat the Department of Labor & Training held over the summer to develop a Strategic Plan. She noted that there are elements of the Plan that the Department wants to bring to the Governor's Workforce Board for discussion, such as a youth strategy plan, restructuring netWORKri and adult literacy. Ms. Orefice then introduced key staff who would be working with the task teams and generally supporting the work of the Board. Along with the GWB staff, they would include personnel from the local workforce boards and Labor & Training staff: John O'Hare, Sandra Powell, Kathy Partington, Bob Langlais, and Johan Uvin from the RI Department of Education.

Ms. Orefice announced the formation of the Workforce Cabinet per the Governor's Executive Order, adding that among other directors, the membership includes herself, Michael McMahon from the Economic Development Corporation and Dr. Jack Warden, from Higher Education. She envisions that this Cabinet will serve to implement workforce policies and initiative developed by the Governor's Workforce Board.

Mr. Koback was asked by Chairman MarcAurele to distribute the Task Team assignment sheets. Mr. Koback explained that the handouts included a listing the teams and a brief description of what each team would be addressing. He added that the primary staff liaison for each team was also included on the list. Mr. Koback reviewed the task areas and noted for example, the Governance Task Team members will have to recommend by-laws and potential committees, stating that the legislation and Executive Order references committees needed, for instance, an Audit Committee. He commented that it necessary to determine the real intent as to whether that means an Evaluation Committee or a Financial Audit Committee, or possibly both. He noted that he could see three standing committees already emerging from the task teams: Strategic Investments, Adult Literacy and Youth Strategies.

Chairman MarcAurele acknowledged that the HRIC has been inactive for some time and relative to Strategic Investments, he noted there are probably some issues remaining that may need action. He assured the members that no decisions would be made on investments without input from the Board. He further emphasized that he did not want the Board to become "bogged down" with financial issues, but to focus and work on larger system issues.

George Nee expressed his confusion in terms of how the HRIC is operating relative to the Job Development Fund. He mentioned the prior RFP process by which training grants have been awarded to businesses. Mr. MarcAurele explained that the Strategic Investments Committee would be reviewing that process among other issues. Michael McMahon asked about a timeframe to release the funding to satisfy commitments that have been made. Chairman MarcAurele responded by stating that he expected recommendations and decisions to be made within a couple of months. Mr. Koback

explained that staff is reviewing the budget and planning on presenting it once the pieces are put together, in terms current obligations, new funds, funds carried in from the prior year, and recommendations from the Investment Task Team.

Referencing the Governance Committee, Mr. McMahon stated that Economic Development Corporation went through the same situation relative to a Quonset project, and they used a consultant. His recommendation was that the Task Team use a consultant or other outside resources if funds are available. He felt there was no need to "reinvent the wheel". Chair MarcAurele stated that if the committee felt that they needed outside resources, the Board would oblige.

Ms. Joanne Soprano was introduced as the Manager for the netWORKri office in Providence and was asked to give an overview on activities at the local level. She noted that the office serves approximately 7,000 customers a year. At their former space, they could only serve 4,000. They have increased the services they provide. 62% of their clients are minorities, and culturally diverse. They serve students, older workers, ex-offenders, people who want to obtain English proficiency, welfare to work clients, and people with disabilities. The Youth Career Center has served over 1,400 students who are a culturally diverse population. The coordinator works with students groups from area community based organizations, and provides employee skills training to youth at the Training Schools. The One Stop has been doing on-site Vocational training for two years along with Certified Nursing Assistant classes and Medical Office Assistant classes. The office is also doing all the Apprenticeship testing for the unions across the state. At this point she invited Board members to join her on a tour of the facility at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Nee asked if there was a plan to hire an executive director for the HRIC. Chair MarcAurele stated that this would be up for discussion by the Governance Task Team. Brandon Melton questioned whether there was a significant difference between the HRIC and the Workforce Development Board. Chair MarcAurele responded that he envisioned the combined group setting strategy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell