

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD-RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
June 15, 2006**

MINUTES

Members Present: Brandon Melton; Sharon Moylan, Robert Paniccia, Adelita Orefice.,
Members Absent: Martin Trueb, Jack Warner
Staff Present: Michael Koback, Dottie Miller, Lori DelRossi,
Others present: Lori Norris, Goodwill Industries; Youth Council Chair, Providence/Cranston WIB and John O'Riley, Independent Living Coordinator, RI Dept for Children & Families.

Chair B. Melton called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He stated that the agenda included updates on both Summer Youth Employment Programs; the "Yes-2- Work" Summer Program, the "We-Can-2" Summer Program for younger youth, the Youth Forum and Apprenticeships.

Chairman Melton asked the guests to introduce themselves and the organization they were representing. Frank Sullivan noted that he was representing the WPGRI Youth Council and that he has worked with the San Miguel School. John O'Riley stated that he was attending for Sue Bowler who represented DCYF, and Lori Norris said that she was the CEO of Goodwill industries RI, and the Chair of the P/C Youth Council.

Chairman Melton asked Dottie Miller to provide the members with an update on the progress of the "YES-2-Work" Summer Jobs Program. Dottie added that about 25 jobs had been identified by about ten companies, and that the youth had been recruited at this time. She added that Lori DiPina of the Providence Youth Center had been invaluable in working on the recruitment and that she was now conducting the initial interviews with the youth. Dottie stated that about 30 – 50 youth were in the queue for the interviews and that some positions had more candidates than others based on their location. She went on to report that employer interviews would be scheduled for the last week in June and that she hoped all positions would be filled. Chairman Melton stated that he was pleased that the YES-2-Work goal of 100 jobs had been exceeded with the 94 Lifespan Jobs and the potential for 25 additional jobs across the state. He then asked Dottie how this initiative differed from former ones, and she stated that she felt this had a better structure and quality because of the involvement of the Youth Center services that ensured youth were better matched for the jobs.

Chairman Melton then asked Lori Del Rossi to report on the "We-Can-2" Summer Youth Employment Program for youth ages 14-15. Lori reported that all of the funded programs had recruited their participants successfully and were preparing to implement their programs. She added that the total negotiated amount for the programs was \$570,608.58, about thirty thousand dollars less than the requested amount, and that a total of 237 youth would be served. She also informed the group that she was leaving the position in August to move to Florida, and the members wished her well.

Chairman Melton asked if staff was planning to convene the contractors as previously planned. Both Lori and Dottie stated they felt that it would be a good way to assess program effectiveness and learn from the group's experience. Lori stated she would like to help with that before she left, and Dottie stated they could design the format for a meeting in August and report back to the committee.

Chairman Melton asked Dottie Miller to inform the committee about the Youth Forum. Dottie provided background information noting that the Youth Forum resulted from an initiative developed at the federal level to ensure services to the nations hardest to serve youth. She explained that the goal of the initiative was to leverage funds and services of several agencies including US Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Justice to offer demand driven training to disadvantaged youth. Dottie reported that RI formed a group that attended national workshops and returned with ideas to carry on the work in Rhode Island. She explained that the group had also responded to a solicitation for funding issued through the initiative, but that the proposal had not been funded. She went on to say that the model

for services was basically the same model that was being considered by the local WIB Youth Councils who were currently seeking DOL waivers to offer services through the netWORKri One Stop Career Centers.

Dottie also stated that the federal team regrouped and planned to select 16 pilot states as national models that would then be eligible to compete for another funding opportunity that was rumored to be available soon. As a result, the Youth Forum group planned to implement a model project at the current Providence netWORKri Youth Center to improve their position when bidding to become one of the 16 pilot states. Director Orefice added background information in support of the forum and explained that she and DCYF Director Martinez had assigned senior level staff to chair the committee, noting that their actions demonstrated their commitment to the Forum and that the assignment of senior level staff was a deliberate indication of support to the Forum's goals to leverage services and improve delivery.

Dottie Miller stated that the Governors Workforce Board and the Youth Development Committee's endorsement of the Youth Forum pilot project would enhance its position. Chairman Melton stated he was very supportive of the concept and asked the members for their comments. Sharon Moylan and Robert Paniccia both indicated their support for the model.

Chairman Melton also asked if there had been any movement on the establishment of a Youth Office. Director Orefice stated that postings for positions should be available in the near future, and that she planned for a strong youth position.

Chairman Melton then asked Director Orefice for an update on a timeframe for discussing the RI Apprenticeship Program and the Director stated she felt that staff changes at the Region One level had interrupted progress. However she stated that it should be something the committee could discuss in the fall.

Chairman Melton asked the members to review the minutes of the April 21st meeting.

A motion was then entered by Robert Paniccia to approve the minutes of the April 21 , 2006 Youth Development Committee meeting. Sharon Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Chairman Melton asked if there was any new business. Lori DelRossi asked the committee to review an appeal by the DaVinci Center regarding their unsuccessful bid proposal for the We-Can-2 Program. The committee reviewed the letters submitted by the DaVinci Center. They then reviewed the proposal review and rating process materials and discussed the proposal raters' scores and the criteria for funding awards for programs. As a result, chairman Melton asked for a motion.

Director Orefice made a motion to deny the appeal of the DaVinci Center. Sharon Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion held.

There being no new business to discuss, Chairman Melton called for adjournment.

A motion was made by Sharon Moylan to adjourn. Adelita Orefice seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion held.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dottie Miller