

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD-RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
September 18, 2006**

MINUTES

Members Present: Brandon Melton; Sharon Moylan, Robert Paniccia, Adelita Orefice. Jack Warner

Members Absent; Martin Trueb,

Staff Present: Michael Koback, Dottie Miller, John O'Hare, Sharon Petrarca.

Others present; Lori Norris, Goodwill Industries; Youth Council Chair, Providence/Cranston WIB and Susan Bowler, Coordinator, RI Dept for Children & Families.

Chair B. Melton called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. He stated that the agenda included reports on both the "Yes-2- Work" and the "We-Can-2" Summer Programs as well as some discussion on plans for the summer of 2007. He mentioned that this meeting was planned to serve as a prelude to a November strategic planning meeting, but that outside factors dictated a focus on plans for 2007.

Minutes of June 15, 2006

Chairman Melton then referred to the minutes of the June 15, 2006 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (GWBRI - YDC) meeting and asked the committee to review them. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Adelita Orefice made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15 GWBRI-YDC meeting as presented. Sharon Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion held.

Evaluation of Summer Youth Employment Programs

Chairman Melton asked Dottie Miller to provide the members with report on the summer youth employment programs. Miller referred to a report in the members folders and provided the group with a review of the report. She stated that she had held a meeting on August 29th for the 11 "We-Can-2" program service providers to discuss their programs best practices and discuss best practices and improvements for future program services. She noted that all of the program operators were very enthusiastic about the impact of their programs adding that the inclusion of a monetary incentive compensation for youth was very effective in simulating employment and that exposing the youth to opportunities outside of familiar neighborhoods was extremely valuable to their development. Dottie went on to report that operators suggestions for improvement to the program design included encouraging more parental involvement, adding computer literacy skills training and building in ongoing contact with program youth during the school year. She added that they also suggested the GWBRI issue Requests For Proposals for 2007 programs as early as November 2006.

In summary, Miller noted that she agreed with their suggestions to issue an RFP in November or December of 2006, to allow awards to be made in March 2007 so that programs could begin recruiting youth before April. She also suggested linking the youth programs with the Industry partnership initiative for stronger private sector involvement, and linking with the Local Workforce Board's youth programs to eliminate duplication and leverage funds to serve more youth. She and Executive Director Koback also discussed

how this strategy could “raise the bar” for quality on program services and allow an opportunity to develop a statewide system for providing youth services.

Dottie went on to report on the YES-2-Work program, and stated that she did not ask the employers to meet, but that she had talked with many of them individually and that the impression was a positive one. She stated that about 109 youth ages 16 through 19 had worked in a variety of summer jobs from boatyards, to medical offices, to insurance companies and hospitals. She stated that the larger companies did more to expose the youth to careers within their industries. She added that Lori DiPina of the Providence Youth Center had been invaluable in working on the recruitment, assessment and the initial interviews.

The committee discussed optimum methods for recruiting and assessing youth for summer jobs, and ways of doing it on a larger scale. The group also discussed an initiative planned by the Providence Chamber which resembled the YES-2-Work program. The discussion centered on collaboration with chambers, agencies and education to develop a system of workforce development services for youth.

Susan Bowler also reported on the RI Youth Forum “Shared Youth Vision” successful Grant application that will result in several RI representatives attending a technical assistance conference in Atlanta. The objective of the initiative, she explained, was to collaborate and leverage funds to serve RI’s hardest to serve youth. She stated she was pleased to see that this committee was focusing on the inclusive strategies to provide services for all youth.

Overview of WIA Programs

Michael Koback provided the committee with an overview of the WIA funded Youth programs administered by the two Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB). He added that the state of RI received Federal WIA funds for youth programs that were distributed to the LWIBs through the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO) at RI DLT. He then asked John O’Hare of the SWIO to explain further.

John O’Hare gave a more detailed explanation of the requirements of the WIA funded youth programs and stated that the LWIBS had a long history of managing these programs. He also outlined the eligibility requirements of those programs and explained to the committee how the state was seeking a waiver from the federal DOL to offer and provide youth workforce development services in a new and more accessible model.

John O’Hare also stated that another GWBRI committee had recommended that the two LWIBs collaborate more and work to standardize their services. As a result, he noted that the two groups had embarked on a mission to draft a joint RFP for youth services, and to use the Providence Youth Center as a statewide model.

Summer 2007 Youth Initiatives:

Michael Koback stated that he supported collaboration and suggested the committee may want to reconsider offering parallel services for youth in this state. He discussed concepts of bringing funding together to serve a broader range of youth. He also reinforced the concept of linking all youth programs to the Industry partnership Initiative to raise the quality of the work

experience for youth and expand career awareness by involving demand driven industry groups.

DLT Director Adelita Orefice supported the strategy and discussed the vision of providing high quality services for all RI youth through accessible centers. She suggested that the GWBRI Youth Development Committee could set the standards for collaborations and service delivery. Jack Warner supported the strategy of leveraging funding and services to serve all youth. The group discussed adding GWBRI state funds to the existing system of WIA funded programs, and offering on joint RFP to allow services be developed and delivered to all youth.

The committee discussed existing programs and the duplications that existed and agreed that was necessary to develop a system of services that was effective. Jack Warner also stated that a joint RFP should ask that bidders clearly state the objective of their program up-front and clearly list the outcomes that the services will achieve.

Mr. Koback noted that the GWBRI Strategic Investments Committee was scheduled to meet on October 4th. Chairman Melton asked the committee to consider funding for the 2007 youth programs through the joint RFP with the WIA Programs. The committee discussed the range of services and suggested they request \$2,000,000 of JDF funds for youth programs to be funneled through the LWIBs to fund youth programs that solicited through a joint RFP. He suggested the funds be awarded to the LWIBs based on the existing federal formulas.

Sharon Moylan made a motion that the GWG Youth Development Committee request \$2,000,000 in JDF funds for youth workforce development services for the coming year. Robert Paniccia seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion held.

The committee also discussed the process for bringing the LWIBs together for the joint purpose of issuing a common RFP for youth program services that go beyond the summer, partner with Industry partnership groups and focus on quality services. They asked that the concept for the RFP be brought to their committee for review prior to public issue. They also discussed avenues for funding and developing an accessible on-line job bank for summer jobs only, connected to a youth development website.

Chairman Melton asked the group to consider additional members that should be invited to participate in the YDC meetings. He also suggested that the next meeting agenda may include additional members and an overview of everyone's goals and objectives. Director Orefice also reminded the committee that the full GW board planned a strategic planning retreat during the winter and suggested that committees should consider those strategies in developing their own strategies.

Chairman Melton thanked everyone for coming. 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 10:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dottie Miller