

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
November 16, 2006**

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Martin Trueb

Staff Present: Michael Koback, Dottie Miller, John O'Hare, Sharon Petrarca, and Karen Waters

Others Present: Lori Norris, Youth Council Chair, Providence/Cranston WIB, Susan Bowler, Coordinator, RI Dept for Children & Families; Tony Lucca, Workforce Solutions of P/C, Frank Sullivan, Youth Council Chair, WPGRI, Christine Grieco, RIDLT, and Paula McFarland, RI Legislative Policy Office

Chairman Brandon Melton called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then stated that there was a lot on the agenda and that he would begin with the minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of September 18, 2006

Chairman Melton then referred to the minutes of the September 18, 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 motioned to approve the minutes of the September 18th GWBRI YDC meeting as presented. Robert Paniccia seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

2007 YOUTH INITIATIVES

Overview Of Program Service Delivery System

Chairman Melton asked Lori Norris, Chair of the Providence/Cranston Youth Council, to provide an overview of the newly developed Youth Services System Flow Chart to the members. Chair Norris explained that the system was designed to serve all RI Youth, not just the WIA eligible population, through a portal similar to or at the site of a netWORKri One Stop Career Center. The service system begins with an initial assessment and progresses to provide services as needed such as comprehensive assessment, job readiness programs, education and training vouchers, as well as access to a wide variety of support services and follow-up services. She added that agreements were underway with the Office of Adult Education to provide funds for GED prep and related basic education services. She added that the P/C Youth Council endorsed the design and explained that the system was intended to allow access and services to more youth. Dottie Miller added that the development of the service system strategy was prompted by the inclusion of the funds contributed by the GWBRI Youth Development Committee, as they allowed services to be extended to all youth, not just

the WIA eligible youth. Dottie added that the WPGRI Youth Council also endorsed the Service System concept and voted to apply no more than 50% of WIA Youth Funds to traditional Youth Programs so that a minimum of 50% of the funds would be applied to procure the menu of service options included in the system. WPGRI Youth Council Chair Frank Sullivan concurred and a discussion of the service elements ensued.

DLT Director Adelita Orefice stated that the DLT had successfully filled the position of Marketing Director and that the youth program promotions was at the top of the marketing agenda. She also stated that she felt it was time to discuss strategies for the GRI Youth Center in Pawtucket and service delivery for the Newport area. Michael Koback stated that the WPGRI was looking at ways to implement plans to provide services to the Newport and Woonsocket areas through sites such as existing One Stop centers or through satellite CAP agencies. He added that the GWBRI funds targeted to Capacity Building may be a resource for computer based on-line learning centers and for a Youth Website designed to enhance and support the initiative.

Discussion ensued on the flexibility of the system as designed to allow additional partners to participate and contribute at almost any point of the service flow. In addition, Lori Norris noted that the system was designed to be flexible and not box in youth, but to move them on to success. She also thanked Tony Lucca for his role in drafting the flow chart and fleshing out the service system.

Program Strategies:

GWBRI-YDC State Funded Program Services:

Chairman Melton asked Dottie Miller to outline the YDC funded programs. Dottie explained that program services similar to those funded by the Youth Development Committee in the summer of 2006 would be procured through the Statewide Request For Proposals that will be issued by both Local WIBs. She pointed to the flow chart to indicate where the services would be offered in the area of Vendor Job Placement or Work Experience and Interactive Job Preparation. She explained that a placement firm, for example, might bid on managing a youth summer employment program based on last year's "YES-2-Work" model. She added that this area of the service delivery flow would also include the programs designed for the 14-15 year old youth. She also pointed out that the ability to procure services in this way would provide the capacity to serve the additional number of youth they expected to serve with the significant increase in funding. Brandon Melton noted he was very pleased with the GWBRI support that led to their allocating \$2 million for 2007 Youth Services, as opposed to the \$600,000 targeted in 2006. He added that he was pleased with the proposed system developed to deliver the services.

WIA Funded Program Services:

Tony Lucca explained that the Youth Program Waiver endorsed by the GWBRI YDC, and both LWIBs allowed the services to be designed and procured in this manner. He explained the WIA traditional program design that required program service providers to provide all services, and be responsible for all performance outcomes. Carlos Ribeiro

noted that in the past, 20 to 40 providers would bid on and provide services, and that today only 4 or 5 were interested or capable because of the paperwork and the performance outcomes. He added that the traditional programs would be included in the RFP but that he expected more organizations could bid on individual services and the LWIBs would be responsible for coordinating the right services and ensuring the performance outcomes. Chairman Melton asked if the waiver had been approved and John O'Hare stated that he had verbal indications that it has been received favorably and he expected endorsement before the new program year.

Leveraged Services:

Michael Koback reported that RI Adult Education expressed interest in providing GED and adult ed services as a part of the youth service system, and that Education was working with the LWIBs on bidding those services in conjunction with the statewide RFP. He also stated that agreements were developing with RI DCYF and that ORS indicated an interest in providing an assessment counselor if the WIBs paid 20% of an FTE. He noted that these agreements contribute to free up more WIA funds to serve more youth. Dottie Miller added that Carlos and Tony calculated that over \$500,000 in LWIB WIA funds are historically applied to GED and basic education services in past year's programs.

Chairman Melton added that the Industry Partnerships were another added option for the youth programs that could great value.

Statewide Request For Proposals

Dottie Miller asked Carlos to report on the progress of the RFP. Carlos noted that it was a difficult document to draft but that the team had made good progress. He noted the document included the traditional WIA youth comprehensive programs as well as specific services. Chairman Melton asked if the paperwork would be less with this new system and Carlos explained that it would be less of a burden to services providers, as staff would manage more of that element.

Dottie Miller then outlined the RFP schedule included in the folders. She noted it was an ambitious schedule and was designed to ensure that awards would be made in March 2007 so youth could be recruited at that time. Chairman Melton stated that he would communicate with Dottie Miller to confirm the necessary dates the Committee needed to meet to ensure the schedule could be met.

Youth Confab

Chairman Melton asked Dottie Miller to discuss the Youth CONFAB. Dottie explained that the event was designed and intended to provide an informal format where the new system of services could be presented and promoted to stakeholders. She added that it was also an opportunity to get feedback from experienced service delivery organizations to help further refine the system. She added that 200 invitations had been distributed and she hoped for substantial participation but not too large a crowd to allow for better interaction and discussion. Tony Lucca also stated the CONFAB would also allow for and encourage partnership development among potential bidders.

Next Steps

Susan Bowler stated that she was pleased with the system of services and that it was reviewed and endorsed by the Advanced Youth Forum (AYF) Group. She added that the AYF expected some funds to be made available for system building and asked the group to consider how such a resource could best support the Youth Service System. Some discussion followed and Director Orefice suggested a separate meeting be scheduled to work on that subject. The Director also reaffirmed that the new Marketing person be involved in the coming months with promoting the services and the system.

Chairman Melton noted that the Committee originally scheduled time for a youth strategic planning meeting and asked if the members wanted to consider scheduling that in conjunction with the GWB strategic planning schedule. Michael Koback stated that he initiated some research into what other states with similar services were doing about strategic planning. He added that Pennsylvania had a similar model of linking the Industry Partnerships with Youth initiatives, and that they had materials they were willing to share. He noted that he would continue the research and report back to the Committee.

Adjournment

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 passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dottie Miller