

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (YDC)
February 18, 2011**

Minutes

Members Present: B. Melton, Chair, S. Moylan, R. Coia

Members Absent: R. DiPasquale, M. Trueb

GWB Staff Present: L. D'Agostino, D. Brown

DLT Staff Present: M. Palumbo, J. Thibedeau, C. Grieco, S. Carello

Others Present: Vanessa Cooley, RI Department of Education;
Todd Flaherty, Children's Crusade

Chair Melton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes of Youth Development Committee meeting

Chair Melton asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 11/15/10 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (GWB – YDC). He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Vote: R. Coia motioned to approve the minutes of the GWB-YDC meeting as presented. S. Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

WIA Youth Eligibility and Program Elements

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide information on Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth eligibility and program elements. M. Palumbo mentioned that she would be providing more in-depth detail on youth services programs at the YDC meetings to provide a better understanding for committee members.

M. Palumbo noted that one of the primary components of the RI Youth Workforce Development System is the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which provides federal funding for youth programs. She referred to a handout entitled: "WIA Eligibility for Youth" and to the sections detailing economic and income eligibility for youth programs. She pointed out that the lower living standard income level nationwide is listed and that the WIA income eligibility cannot exceed 70% of that level. She explained that youth must meet the economic eligibility, and at least one of the seven youth barriers listed in order to be eligible for WIA funding, noting that many youth have multiple barriers.

M. Palumbo explained there are ten WIA required program elements as well as WIA performance measures which are detailed in the handout. She noted that WIA is a two year program, providing services in the first year and measuring outcomes and providing follow-up in the second year. She explained the utilization of JDF funds for intake and assessment purposes and noted that if the youth are interested and able, they could be moved into the WIA system. M. Palumbo stated it is the blending of the WIA and JDF funds that provides the all youth agenda.

M. Palumbo mentioned the handout entitled “2011 WIA Standalone Proposals” and indicated this is a list of all the proposals received. She explained there is not funding available for all of the proposals and that the local workforce investment boards (LWIBS) will determine who will be served with WIA funds. It was noted that the WIA standalone agencies specialize in serving older youth ages 19-21 and WIA requires that 70% of all youth served are of the older youth population.

There were questions from committee members on the number of youth retained in WIA programs, how many youth are being served, which agencies will be funded, and how much funding is available. M. Palumbo will report back on this at the next YDC meeting.

RI Youth Workforce Development System Update

Chair Melton asked M. Palumbo to provide an update on the RI Youth Workforce Development System.

PY2010 – Quarters 1&2

M. Palumbo reviewed statistics from the handout entitled: “Statewide WIA/JDF Youth Programs Data Collection” for the reporting period of 4/1/10 through 9/30/10. She mentioned key facts such as the total youth contracted to serve was 3,520; that 49.65% served are between the ages of 16-18; that 76.21% of youth served are in the 9th – 12th grade; and that a majority of youth served, specifically 58.95% are still in school. She noted that a major barrier is basic skills deficiency (81.35%) or 2 grades below age level. These youth will need services in remedial education.

WIA Standalone RFP Responses

M. Palumbo reported that an RFP was issued in November 2010 for the 2011 WIA Standalone Proposals. She referred to the handout previously discussed which is a listing of the proposals both local workforce investment boards received. There was an explanation of the RFP process. Chair Melton asked if there is a rating of the providers for youth programs based on outcomes. C. Grieco stated that each provider is closely monitored and must meet standards required of the programs. Chair Melton noted the importance of an evaluation process used to rate the providers based on measured outcomes and suggested this be considered going forward. He asked that in the future, the standalones who also operate youth centers be identified. M. Palumbo summarized that an agency that operates a youth center may have JDF and WIA programming and receive funding to implement a WIA Standalone by submitting a separate proposal.

JDF Summer Program RFP

M. Palumbo reported that 32 proposals were received for the JDF Summer Program. She referred to the handouts listing the respondents from the RFP for the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI and Workforce Solutions of Providence /Cranston.

Career Technical Afterschool Program

Chair Melton asked M. Palumbo to provide information on the Career Technical Afterschool Program. M. Palumbo reported that late in November of 2010, it was determined there was funding from ARRA set aside monies that needed to be spent by June 30, 2011. This money was identified for youth programming. It was decided to use the ARRA funding to support a career and technical after school program based on the program model from the summer of 2010. M. Palumbo explained that this program could not be offered through the LWIBs due to the nature and criteria of the funding source. The program was launched on a local level and

managed by S. Carello of the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO). M. Palumbo noted the importance of the collaboration between DLT Youth Services Division and the directors of the Area Career & Tech Centers involved in the program which were: Cranston, Warwick, East Providence and Woonsocket.

S. Carello provided further details on the pilot program noting that these four career and tech centers will serve up to 170 students for the ten-week after school program which will run from February through May 2011. She explained this is a pilot/demonstration project where students will complete a minimum of four technical exploratory rotations, work readiness training and contextualized reading, mathematics and writing instruction. She noted this program is targeting middle-school aged youth who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Youth Summit – Overview

Chair Melton proposed holding a Youth Summit to engage various employers and other stakeholders in the state in dialogue on how to better serve more youth and expand resources. He suggested inviting employers, labor leaders, industry partners and others to this summit. He polled committee members for their thoughts and indicated the next step would to discuss this idea with Director Fogarty.

Other Business

M. Palumbo reviewed an organizational chart displaying the interaction among regional and national agencies and organizations that connect or provide services through the RI Youth Workforce Development System. This chart is available in the meeting packet.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chair Melton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the GWBRI-YDC.

Vote: R. Coia motioned to adjourn the meeting of GWB-YDC. S. Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney