

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (YDC)
September 8, 2011**

Minutes

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

Members Absent: R. DiPasquale

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

DLT Staff Present: M. Palumbo, Carlos Ribeiro, D. Tremblay, Adrianna Goode

Others Present: Anne Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Amanda D'Alessio, Goodwill Providence Youth Center; Christine Yankee, Goodwill RI; Karen Mellon and Richard Silva, East Providence Career & Tech Center, Hillary Salmons, Providence After School Alliance

Meeting Location: Providence Youth Center, 110 Eddy Street, Providence, RI

Chair's Call to Order

Chair Melton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Minutes of Youth Development Committee meeting

Chair Melton asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 4/13/11 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. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

2011 Career & Technical Afterschool Program

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide background information on the 2011 Career & Technical Afterschool program. M. Palumbo reported that the after school program was based on the 2010 Career & Technical Summer Program and was implemented at the state level as a demonstration project. She explained that the objective was to provide drop out prevention through contextualized education, work readiness training and career exploration to middle school youth who are at risk of dropping out of school. She noted that 4 centers were involved with this project and were located in Cranston, Warwick, East Providence and Woonsocket. She stated that 179 students were trained and that the total cost of the program was \$376,138.

M. Palumbo introduced Karen Mello and Richard Silva who led the afterschool program at the East Providence Area Career & Technical Center. K. Mello explained that the target group consisted of students in the 9th grade and that 30 students participated in the program. She stated that the program was held right after school and offered rotation areas including culinary arts, forensic science, automotive, computer design, graphics and cosmetology. K. Mello indicated that students attended the ten-week after school program for 8 hours per week and earned a wage of \$7.40 per hour. Students completed a minimum of 4 technical exploratory rotations, work readiness training, contextualized reading, mathematics and writing enhancement. R. Silva offered anecdotal evidence of the success of this program by sharing some of the learning experiences of the students with committee members.

There was a general discussion on how successful demonstration projects could be incorporated into the existing school curriculum and on the funding mechanisms necessary.

Job Development Fund Update

Chair Melton asked Lisa D'Agostino to provide an update on the Job Development Fund (JDF). L. D'Agostino reported that as discussed in the GWB Executive Committee yesterday, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$5.7M to be dedicated to adult education programs. She explained the appropriation was determined by the approval of funding in the amount of \$3.5M by the GWB in June for adult education programs and by the legislated appropriation of \$2.3M from the JDF for adult education funding.

She reported that the Department of Labor & Training (DLT) and the RI Department of Education (RIDE) are in the process of working out a compromise for this funding with the Legislature and have been in dialogue since June. L. D'Agostino commented that no decision has been made as of this date. She cautioned that the rest of the JDF resources are extremely limited without the compromise and that even if restored, funding will be somewhat restrictive. She noted the difficult decisions the board must make going forward. She mentioned the funding cycle for the operation of the youth centers noting that it runs from July 1 through March 31st which leaves a gap in funding of \$100,000 to get through the end of the fiscal year.

Chair Melton mentioned the funding that was awarded by the GWB for the youth centers for FY12 (\$525,000) and for the summer youth employment program (\$1.5M). He emphasized the need to develop other resources to fund youth programs and initiatives and to leverage these resources.

2011 JDF Summer Work Experience Program

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide an update on the JDF summer work experience program. M. Palumbo reviewed the Summer JDF Contract Awards Final Report which lists the grantees and youth center operations along with the number of youth served and contract amounts. This report was broken out for both of the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs). M. Palumbo indicated that the summer programs served ages 14-24 however the majority of youth who participated were between the ages of 14-16. She provided an overview of the work readiness requirements for the WIA/ JDF funded youth programs.

Chair Melton mentioned an August 3rd press conference held at the State House to highlight the summer youth program. He noted that 5 youth participated in the event who worked over the summer in the marine trades, Lifespan, Goodwill and a bakery in Woonsocket.

2011 WIA Contract Awards

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide an update on the WIA Contract Awards. She reviewed the Final Funded Program Report, which included a summary of the grantees, youth population served, contract amount and number served for both LWIBs.

Shared Youth Vision Replication Project - update

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide an update on the Shared Youth Vision Replication Project. M. Palumbo reported that the second year of the Shared Youth Vision project was not funded. She noted that year one of the two project was coordinated by the School of Maine. Since year two is not funded, the coordination of this project is being managed by Adrianna Goode, the DLT statewide coordinator of the youth centers. However, M. Palumbo noted they are not able to serve the number of youth as done in year 1 of the project.

Other Business

Chair Melton noted that with the impact of limited funding it is important to identify opportunities for additional funding and for sharing resources. He mentioned the plan to hold a youth summit sometime this winter and that the invitees might include the RI Foundation, Providence Plan, members of the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs), business and industry.

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. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney