

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Robin Coia, Chair, Brandon Melton, Sharon Moylan, Pheamo Witcher

Committee Members Absent: Ray DiPasquale

GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff Present: Carlos Ribeiro, Sharon Geoffrey

Others Present: Anne Walsh and Adrianna Goode, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Malcolm Baxter, BIS

Location: RI Department of Labor & Training, Conference room 73-2

Chair's Call to Order

Chair Coia welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

Minutes of the Youth Development Committee

Chair Coia asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 6-22-12 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (YDC). She asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

VOTE: B. Melton motioned to approve the minutes of the Youth Development Committee meeting as presented. S. Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Summer Youth Employment Program Update

Chair Coia mentioned the recent GWB board meeting presentation from Electric Boat on the GWB Jobs Initiative through the Defense Industry Partnership. Although she was not able to attend the meeting, Chair Coia spoke of the positive feedback she received from those who attended. She acknowledged the important opportunity provided to these youth not only to receive paid employment but to develop work readiness skills. There was a general discussion on the achievements of the youth workers involved in this initiative as well as the challenges such as limited public transportation services to the work site.

Chair Coia asked Carlos Ribeiro of the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI to provide an update on the summer youth employment program. He reviewed the handouts entitled, Summer 2012 – JDF and Summer 2012 – DHS and noted that the final reporting information would be available in October. C. Ribeiro was asked about credentials associated with the summer program and mentioned OSHA certification and babysitting licenses.

Chair Coia asked Anne Walsh of the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston to provide an update. A. Walsh reviewed the handout entitled, 2012 Summer Youth Programs and noted a total of 423 youth served, 232 through the Job Development Fund (JDF) and 191 through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). She mentioned that 159 attained

credentials, and 19 entered employment (to date). She stated that the final outcomes would be available later in the fall. A. Walsh spoke of a Healthy Lifestyle Curriculum which would involve partnering with the Health Department and offer credentials for youth to provide training in the schools (a Train the Trainer curriculum). She noted they are looking for funding for this.

C. Ribeiro provided a recap of the summer youth placements offered through the 2012 Incumbent Worker Training Grant program. A general discussion followed about engaging employers both large and small to promote internships. R. Brooks mentioned the Make it Happen RI forum offered by the Rhode Island Foundation which emphasized the importance of connecting young people to the workforce. Chair Coia suggested a targeted marketing effort for the youth programs to smaller employers to raise awareness. S. Moylan suggested using the resources of the local Chambers of Commerce for any marketing effort.

Youth RFP PY13 (FY14)

Chair Coia asked C. Ribeiro and A. Walsh to provide information on the Youth RFP for FY14. C. Ribeiro provided an overview of the RFP process and content. He noted that the RFP requires vendors to engage youth in the centers in advance of any employment program which allows them to learn work readiness skills prior to any placement. In further discussion about youth placements, Rick Brooks noted that the JDF does not require that the organization be non-profit. He suggested an expansion of youth opportunities beyond non-profit and public agencies. C. Ribeiro stated that both the South County and Tri-Town Community Action organizations offer for profit job development opportunities. In preparing for the next RFP, he suggested that language about work readiness training be included.

There was a general discussion and information offered on tracking JDF outcomes, possible additional funding resources for the youth system from the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the DLT longitudinal grant and measuring outcomes.

Express Grants/Internships

Chair Coia asked Rick Brooks to speak about express grants and internships. R. Brook noted that with JDF being restored by the legislature that an additional \$500,000 may be allocated for the Incumbent Worker Training Grants (IWTG) in the form of Express Grants. He explained these grants as being available to businesses on a rolling basis with \$5,000 as a maximum and requiring a 50/50 match similar to the Incumbent Worker Training Grant (IWT) program. He indicated the grants would be available until the funding runs out. The grants would be another way to promote youth opportunities to business. He stated that a reduced match could be considered if a year round or summer internship were offered. A discussion followed regarding stipends for youth placements, work readiness credentials and alignment of funding. R. Brooks indicated that the Express Grants would be taken up at the next Strategic Investments & Evaluation committee meeting.

Wiki Update

Chair Coia asked Anne Walsh to provide an update on the Wiki site. A. Walsh explained that a wiki makes it easy to swap ideas and information on projects. She indicated she would invite committee members and staff to the site in order to share documents and information.

Adjournment

Chair Coia noted the 2013 meeting schedule in the packet. She indicated the next Youth Development Committee meeting would be held on December 13th at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business, Chair Coia asked for a motion to adjourn.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve. S. Moylan seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney