

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI**  
**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JUNE 11, 2015**

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Robin Coia, Chair, Timothy Byrne, Nina Pande, Bahjat Shariff,  
Committee Members Absent: Scott Jensen, Steve Kitchin  
Other Board Members Present: Monica Dzialo, Connie Howes  
GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Dan Brown  
DLT Staff Present: Carlos Ribeiro,  
Others Present: Anne Walsh,  
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 8:35 am.

Chair Coia had a brief introduction of all new committee members and welcomed them.

**Minutes of the Youth Development Committee**

Chair Coia asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 6-11-15 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (YDC). She asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Monica Dzialo moved to approved, seconded by Tim Byrne. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

**Overview of Youth Center:**

Chair Coia asked Carlos Ribeiro to provide an update on the handout "Youth Center Systems – A one stop model of excellence". Carlos noted he wanted to thank the Governor's Workforce Board for creating this system. The YouthWorks411 is the statewide delivery system for youth workforce services in RI. He noted the 2 local workforce boards coordinates in operating 14 youth development focused centers across the state, to serve federally required WIA / WIOA youth as well as the GWB's all youth agenda by braiding federal WIOA as of July 1, 2015 and local GWB / JDF funds. Carlos highlighted some of the keys points in this handout. He stated 70% of the youth in the system are low income. He noted the shared youth vision works with all state agencies that provides youth services that allows us to network and create other partnership with state agencies. He noted that before 2007, only 200 youth would be served. Now with the youthWORKS411 system in place that number is over 3,000. By having the system in place it can respond are be ready for last minute funds and programs such as: ARRA in 2009 that ranked #2 in the nation; In 2010 jobs now - within 3 weeks serves 177 youth; In 2012 the Department of Human Services (DHS) summer funds allowed the system to serve almost 600

youth. Bahjat asked what was the age appropriate for a youth to be eligible for these programs and why are they in the program. Carlos noted the age is 14-24 and they are potential drop out of school. Constance Howes asked do they have to be low income. Carlos stated no. Carlos noted that there are 3 target populations, high school drop out prevention: Adult Education and GED achievement, program for all youth that already drop out; and more employment driven for those with some employment experience. He mentioned to the group we have no shortage of youths we have more youth applying than we have services for them. He noted the income barrier as 87% are below the age appropriate grade level. These programs are in first come, first served bases.

### **FY16 Youth Summer Employment Program:**

Chair Coia asked Carlos Ribeiro and Anne Walsh to provide the group with an overview of the youth system in RI. Carlos noted under Workforce Partnership of Greater RI. GRI will serve 759 summer youth / at a \$1,200 per youth with a total allocation from the GWB of \$983,250.00. The institute for Labor Studies will be providing services to all summer youth participants. Chair Coia asked why RI Manufacturers Association was not funded. Carlos stated they did not submit an audit along with the RFP response.

Anne Walsh provided the group with an update Workforce Solutions of Providence / Cranston. Anne noted 12 agencies apply. They ran out of money, only had enough funding for 9. Anne noted there were 281 youth served. The committee asked do they all get paid minimum wage. Anne replies yes.

### **Real Jobs RI**

Chair Coia asked Julie O'Connell to provide an update on Real Jobs RI. Julie asked "What is Real Jobs Rhode Island. She stated it's an innovative approach to meeting the workforce demands of employers. This is new initiative created under Governor Raimondo. The Governor has promised a new approach to workforce training where we partner with businesses to make sure we're training people for the jobs that actually exist now. Real Jobs Rhode Island delivers on this promise by putting Rhode Island employers at the center of the state's workforce development systems. The New System will consist of Strategic Industry partnerships working collaborations of employers, secondary and post secondary institutions of education, government entities, and training providers. Non-profits, community organizations, and other partners to meet employer demand and put Rhode Islanders back to work. Constance Howes noted that she would like to see Real Jobs RI do some outreach. She would like to see them do a planning grant in the fall of 2015, put out a telephone number to reach out to reach out to all the programs and to make sure that someone knowledgeable is on the other end to answer all questions.

### **Youth in Adult Education:**

Chair Coia asked Anne Walsh to provide the group with an update. Anne noted the number of RI youth ages 16-24 enrolled in Adult Education approximately 2,000, of which only 10% are functioning at a high school level. Anne stated the United Way has a report regarding the outcomes of Adult Education in RI. She also noted that AmeriCorps at times has funding

available for literacy program. Anne will be keeping an eye out for this. Carlos noted that ServeRI received AmeriCorps funding for members in the Pawtucket youthworks411

**New Business:**

No new Business

**Adjournment**

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

**VOTE:** C. Howes moved to approve, seconded by Monica Dzialo.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown