

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 19, 2008**

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Joseph MarcAurele, Brandon Melton, Jack Warner,  
Sharon Moylan  
Committee Members Absent: William McGowan  
Other GWB Members Present: Sandra Powell  
GWB Staff Present: J. Michael Koback, Maureen Mooney  
Location: RI DLT, Conference room 73-2

With a quorum present, Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the 5-13-08 Executive Committee meeting.

**VOTE:** J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved.

**FY '09 Budget**

Since all committee members were present at the prior Strategic Investment committee meeting, there was agreement that there was no need to review the budget items again.

**Strategic Planning Update**

M. Koback reported that the Strategic Planning focus groups met earlier this month with successful results. He noted that there were a total of 7 focus groups and included participants from business, labor, community based organizations, and education as well as members of the 2 local Workforce Investment Boards and the Workforce Cabinet. John Metcalf from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) facilitated the focus groups. M. Koback noted the tremendous support and feedback from the participants. Each group indicated their desire to remain a part of the strategic planning process.

M. Koback indicated the Strategic Planning Steering Committee met prior to the focus group meetings and re-crafted some of the goals and objectives. These revisions were reviewed by the focus groups. M. Koback indicated the Workforce Cabinet reviewed these changes as well and made additional revisions to the goals and objectives. The key revision was to place the system goal up front which allows the other goals to flow from this. M. Koback indicated the next step is for the Workforce Cabinet to assign staff to begin the unified planning process.

M. Koback reported there was a 32% response rate for the survey that was sent to local companies for collecting and analyzing training data. He indicated that the Labor Market Information (LMI) staff is in the process of tabulating the information into a report and that staff members are currently working on the resource mapping piece.

**Annual Meeting Update**

M. Koback reviewed the timeline of the annual meeting, workshop and separate board meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that Ed Barlow provided him an overview of his presentation and that it promises to be interesting. M. Koback indicated that more than 550 invitations were sent and it is estimated that 200-250 will be in attendance. He also reported that VIBCO will be the recipient of the Innovation Award this year and that there will be a video presentation of the

company at the annual meeting. Adelita Orefice will be the recipient of an appreciation award for her service to the Department of Labor and Training.

### **Legislative Update**

A discussion followed about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce commission recently created by legislation of the General Assembly. It was reported by Director Powell that this commission will recommend specific actions to strengthen the Community College of RI's (CCRI) position as a key institution in RI, which will assist in creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce that is prepared for high-wage job opportunities.

### **Workforce Development Day Report**

M. Koback reported that in spite of the chaos at the statehouse surrounding the release of the State budget, this event was very successful. Several legislators, as well as the Governor, stopped by the GWB display table and asked questions. Several inquiries were raised about serving youth through the GWB committee and statewide youth services programs. The Workforce Development Day was an excellent opportunity to inform the legislators and the public about the work of the GWB and partners.

### **Other Business**

Director Powell reported on an advisory group for Unemployment Insurance that has not been active for 10 years. This group was originally established as a reform measure for unemployment insurance and comes under the auspices of the HRIC of the GWB. Director Powell acknowledged the need to reconvene this group to review unemployment insurance law. She indicated it is possible that the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund will trigger an increase in the employer tax rate in January due to greater utilization of the fund. She also reported that in 1998, the tax rate for employers was tied to the balance of the fund every September. In periods of high unemployment, the fund balance dips which leads to employers paying more taxes at a time when they can least afford it. Director Powell suggested taking a look at the 1998 law, reviewing the composition of the group and recommending any needed legislative changes in the process of calculating the unemployment insurance law. Director Powell reported that the Governor has been briefed on this legislative issue.

M. Koback noted a resolution will be added to the consent agenda which states that while the board is on hiatus during the summer, that the Executive Committee would be able to act on any business that arises.

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

**VOTE:** S. Moylan moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney