

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting  
January 11, 2010**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan,  
Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb, George Nee  
GWB Staff present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Maureen Mooney  
DLT Staff present: Jenn Buck  
Others Present: Paul Harden, RIEDC; Sol Rodriguez, Heather Vail and  
Jesse Capece of OpenDoors; Allan Tear, Jack Templin  
and Owen Johnson of Betaspring

**Call to Order**

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items.

**Minutes of 12/07/09**

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 12/07/09 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**VOTE:** M. Trueb moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

**Industry Partnerships**

Chair MarcAurele asked J. O'Hare to discuss the request for funding for an RFP for the Defense Industry and the Year 4 Industry Partnerships.

***RFP Defense Industry – Year 1***

J. O'Hare reported that GWB and DLT staff met with representatives on Aquidneck Island who have expressed an interest in establishing partnerships within the defense industry. He noted that the request before the committee is for approval of an RFP for the Defense Industry to be funded in the amount of \$150,000. He explained that this is a first year industry partnership and that the scope of work involves connecting to the workforce development system, creating a skills gap analysis and special projects.

A motion was entered to approve funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the RFP for the Defense Industry Partnership, Year 1.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. G. Nee seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

***Year 4 Industry Partnerships***

John O'Hare reported that this is the third year of the Industry Partnerships, with one of the partners already completing year 3. He is recommending that the funding be lowered from \$150,000 to \$100,000 per partnership. He explained that the partners could work on special initiatives that were identified over the first three years and indicated there would be further discussion on these partnerships as the year progresses.

B. Melton requested information on the leveraging of other sources of funds from the Industry Partnership program and on the companies that are spending money on training. M. Trueb

inquired about the status of the Info Tech Industry partnership. N. Olson reported that updates on the partnerships are scheduled as part of the GWB board meetings. She indicated that Andrew Cortes will be presenting an update on Building Futures at the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### **Funding Request: OpenDoors**

Chair MarcAurele reported that Sol Rodriguez, Executive Director of OpenDoors (formerly the Family Life Center) would be presenting the next funding request.

S. Rodriguez noted that the proposal before the committee is for funding to enhance the current resources of the organization. She reported that OpenDoors received a federal grant from the Second Chance Act for employment mentoring and a grant from United Way for job training and placement. She indicated that the intent of the funding proposal is to provide outreach to employers in the state about various programs and tax credit incentives to assist them in employing formerly incarcerated people who are on probation and/or parole. She noted that this is a challenging population and that this funding will assist in a state-wide campaign directed towards increasing employment rates and matching employers with qualified candidates through employer outreach and engagement.

A motion was entered to approve funding in the amount of \$125,000.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Funding Request: Betaspring**

Chair MarcAurele asked Allan Tear of Betaspring to present the funding request.

Allan Tear explained that Betaspring, LLC is a Providence-based 12 week training and development program for first-time entrepreneurial teams who have a scalable technology or design enabled company concept. This concept is a mentorship environment where the team is taken quickly through the process of understanding the basics of building a company, finding markets, building a first prototype and marketing it to prospective customers. A focus is then placed on developing opportunities for funding, publicity, and business partners. Prototypes are demonstrated and company stories are created that will secure financing and revenue growth.

A motion was entered to approve funding in the amount of \$366,000.

**VOTE:** M. Trueb moved to approve. G. Nee seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Other Business**

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

**VOTE:** W. McGowan moved to approve. G. Nee seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney