

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
June 17, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: William McGowan, Brandon Melton, George Nee
Committee Members absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Martin Trueb
GWB Staff present: Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Diane Gagne, Laura Hart, Paul Genovesi, Sean Fontes, Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally, Diane Vendetti, Jen Cornwell, Chris Grieco, Matthew Weldon

Others Present: Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm Baxter, United Way volunteer; Paul Harden, RIEDC; Philip Less and Andrea Castaneda, RIDE; Jim Glover, Providence Cranston Workforce Solution; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Robin Smith, CCRI

Call to Order

Vice Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. He welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda.

Minutes of 5-2-11

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 5-2-11.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Industry Partnership Awards

Vice Chair McGowan asked L. D'Agostino to provide background information on the Industry Partnership RFP process. L. D'Agostino reported that the RFP was released on May 25th and responses were due by June 10, 2011 with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2011. She indicated that 10 proposals were received for a total funding request of \$1.6M. She noted that two new organizations applied specifically the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (AICU) of Rhode Island and United Nurses & Allied Professionals (UNAP)/ RI Hospital Health Care Education Trust. L. D'Agostino reported that Nancy Olson convened and coordinated a group of 10 readers and raters to review the proposals which included staff from RIDE (Office of Multiple Pathways); CCRI Staff (Career Pathways); the two local Workforce Investment Boards; United Way; and staff from RIDLT including Labor Market Information (LMI) and the Business Workforce Center.

N. Olson reported on the summary and recommendations of the Technical Review Committee noting that each proposal needed to obtain a score of 70 or higher to be considered responsive. She noted that AICU and the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) would not be considered for funding since they did not meet the threshold. N. Olson reviewed the history of the RFP, the scoring mechanisms and process, and reviewed the spreadsheet with the scores for each organization that applied.

G. Nee raised a question about the two proposals from the Tech Collective. N. Olson explained that Tech Collective represents two separate industries: Bio Science and Information Technology. She noted that during contract negotiations any duplication of services will be addressed and that it is possible that the total funding amount will be lowered without affecting

the substance of the proposal. She also noted that the Defense Industry Partnership did not submit a proposal since they have a current contract.

Brandon Melton stated he has a conflict of interest regarding the Industry Partnership awards since he is on the board of the Health Care Education Trust for UNAP. He noted he may need to recuse himself from the vote.

To answer a question on the process of awards moving forward, N. Olson explained that the Strategic Investments Committee approved \$1M in April 2011 to release the RFP. She stated that with the elimination of the 2 partnerships who did not meet the minimum threshold, the total amount of funding requested for the Industry Partnerships is \$1.3M. She stated that the request before the committee is for approval of the proposals which scored over 70 and for approval to negotiate the Industry Partnership contracts not to exceed the \$1M. N. Olson stated that staff will come back to the Strategic Investments Committee to inform members of the negotiated contracts.

N. Olson discussed a recommendation from the Technical Review Committee (reader/rater groups) to combine the three (3) health care Industry Partnerships and negotiate one contract, stating all three proposals contained sections that had great value. She noted that for the past three (3) years there were two (2) health care partners: Quality Partners of RI and the Hospital Association of RI (HARI). The current proposals include both of these partners as well as UNAP. N. Olson was informed by staff of the Local Workforce Investments Boards (LWIBs) during the rating process of the collaborative work of Quality Partners and HARI on the Industry Skills Development Initiative (ISDI). HARI was the fiduciary on this contract.

Vice Chair McGowan acknowledged the standard rating process utilized by GWB and noted that by rating based on scores, Quality Partners would have the lowest score of those recommended for funding. If Quality Partners was removed this would bring the funding closer to the \$1M budget. He stated that it did not seem justified to combine the 3 proposals into one thereby reducing the amount of the funding requested by each entity.

N. Olson mentioned that the RFP states that the GWB reserves the right to fund a portion of any proposal and to negotiate and fund any proposal all or in part. L. D'Agostino mentioned that any duplication and redundancies within the proposals would be eliminated through the combining of the three (3) health care proposals.

G. Nee asked if the current Industry Partners who submitted proposals have been successful. N. Olson confirmed that they are. She deferred to the Strategic Investment Committee on the best resolution for funding.

B. Melton stated that UNAP is affiliated with the RI Hospital Health Care Education Trust and that it is a labor management collaborative made up of five (5) labor leaders and five (5) management staff. He mentioned emails were exchanged in which UNAP/ RI Hospital reached out to Quality Partners to try and collaborate on their proposal and that this was rebuffed by Quality Partners. B. Melton indicated it was unfortunate they could not come together with a single proposal because the Trust was trying to work with the Long Term Care (LTC) industry. He noted this is a huge industry and the many differences between long term care and hospitals. He did not believe there was any attempt by UNAP to reach out to the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. Ruth Ricciarelli confirmed this. L. D'Agostino stated that HARI's proposal did speak to UNAP and the work that UNAP has accomplished and that this was reflected in their proposal.

As the committee prepared to vote, N. Olson asked legal counsel if there were sufficient voting members based on B. Melton's recusal. G. Nee mentioned that he is on the Advisory Board of

Building Futures but indicated he did not think it was a conflict since he was not paid by the board. The Committee was advised by Mary Ellen McQueeney Lally that there are sufficient members to vote.

A motion was made by George Nee to approve the highest ranking Industry Partnerships, thereby excluding Quality Partners, and to allow GWB staff to negotiate contracts, not to exceed \$1M. The Committee requested that the two funded Health Care Industry Partnerships contact Quality Partners to include them in health care industry discussions.

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion as stated above.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by W. McGowan. Brandon Melton recused himself from the vote since he is on the board of the Health Care Education Trust for UNAP. All were in favor, the motion passed.

L. D'Agostino provided a point of clarity that the final decision of the committee was to fund two (2) individual health care Industry Partnerships specifically HARI & UNAP/RI Hospital Health Care Education Trust.

Funding Request: FY12 & FY13 Skills Tutor

Vice Chair McGowan asked J. Glover of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC) to present the funding request for the Skills Tutor. J. Glover reported that the Skills Tutor program is a web-based program intended to raise the basic skill level of the hardest to serve population of one stop customers who do not meet the entry requirements for occupational skills training. He noted that the 2008-2010 program was funded by RI Department of Education (RIDE) with funds provided by the GWB as part of the RIDE grant. Since the Skills Tutor Program is a valuable tool for the One-Stops, continuation of services was funded by WIA funds which can only serve WIA eligible individuals. J. Glover noted that due to the restrictions of WIA funds, the program was not open to all customers and usage went from over 700 to 259 so far this year. He noted that the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) reached out to WSPC and offered to provide the licenses if they could pay for the instructor. He noted that the instructor is from CCRI and would provide on-site full-time (35 hours per week) instruction on the Skills Tutor at the Providence One-Stop Center. J. Glover stated that the funding request is for the instructor through June 30, 2013 which coincides with the licenses. He noted that the WSPC would contribute staff time for this program.

G. Nee asked about the track record on the number of people who receive this service who end up with employment. Though he did not have the entered employment figures, J. Glover stated that 270 people who received services raised their academic level to begin occupational skills training. He noted that individuals who are working with the Skills Tutor continue to receive case management services. When asked, J. Glover indicated they anticipate serving 800 individuals through this program.

With a suggestion from G. Nee, Vice Chair McGowan stated that with the intention of not jeopardizing the program, he would like to propose funding the program for one year and to ask WSPC to come back and request funds for the following year (FY13). J. Glover reported he would have the entered employment information at that time.

Vice Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve one year of the funding request for the Skills Tutor for FY12 noting a request for additional funding can be made at a later date for FY13.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Funding Request: FY 12 Adult Education

Vice Chair McGowan asked Dr. Philip Less from the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to present the FY12 funding request for adult education. P. Less provided an overview of the RIDE budget noting the department is level funding the program. He mentioned the specific funding sources which include general revenue, federal and DHS funds.

P. Less reviewed several charts and reports including:

Adult Education and Enrollment Performance Trends 2006-2010

P. Less mentioned that the enrollment figures for 2010-2011 are down and attributed this to an overall decrease in funding.

FY 11 Adult Education Funded Providers JDF and Total Adult Education Allocation Comparison

P. Less mentioned that JDF funds support 18 programs, 9 of which are supported completely by JDF funds.

Progress Report for the Adult Education and Literacy Committee of the GWB – May 5, 2011

P. Less noted the challenges relating to funding.

RIDE Adult Education Funding in Grants

P. Less discussed the current general revenue funds, federal and other funding sources.

Vice Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the FY12 funding request for Adult Education in the amount of \$3.5M (level funding) with the caveat that if additional funds are available the committee would entertain a request.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Extension Request

Vice Chair McGowan asked Robin Smith, Center for Workforce and Community Education to present a request for an extension for CCRI. R. Smith provided an overview of the funding from the Job Development Fund for positions recommended through the 21st Century Workforce Commission and the subsequent legislation. She noted that \$240,000 was allocated through the legislature through June 30, 2011. She explained that due to delays in the hiring process and one resignation, a projected \$173,000 will remain from the original \$240,000 allocated to CCRI for staffing positions. R. Smith noted that in order to continue the work in the development of a statewide career pathways system, that they are requesting \$108,000 be extended to cover the salaries and benefits for the Sales and Outreach Coordinator and the Coordinator of Career Pathways positions from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

There was a question if it is within the GWB authority to authorize the carryover of funds since the funding was legislated. RIDLT legal counsel will review and provide an opinion on this issue.

Vice Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the request by CCRI for an extension of funds in the amount of \$108,000 to cover the salaries and benefits for staffing from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. He noted that these positions were recommended through the 21st Century Workforce Commission and subsequent legislation. The motion is subject to verification by RIDLT's legal counsel that it is within the board's authority to extend the funding.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Other Business

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney