

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Jack Warner, Chair, Mario Bueno, Robert Nangle, Paul MacDonald
Committee Members Absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Armeather Gibbs, George Nee
Others Present: Johan Uvin, Elizabeth Jardine
GWB Staff Present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

With a quorum present, Chair Warner called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Chair Warner welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 9/4/08.

Approval of minutes of 9/4/08

A motion was entered to approve the Adult Education and Literacy Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2008.

VOTE: P. MacDonald moved to approve, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. The motion passed.

Performance Review Results

Chair Warner provided an overview of national and state performance review results as reported in the hand-out entitled "National Performance: Overall and By Quartile Boundaries". Chair Warner mentioned that later in the meeting a proposal to lengthen the funding cycle for adult education programs will be discussed. He indicated a longer funding cycle may be helpful in building capacity and providing consistency in funding. He referred to a pre-validation draft of performance scores for local agencies providing adult education services and noted that Johan Uvin of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) would be providing more information.

J. Uvin mentioned that the handout on national performance outcomes summarizes the indicators and outcomes for RI from fiscal years 06 through 08. He reported that the target is to achieve the 75% percentile by 2012. J. Uvin noted the considerable improvement from the previous bottom quartile in FY06 and suggested this was in part due to increased funding. He noted some concern surrounding the transition to postsecondary education and indicated he is hopeful the percentage will increase to the 20% target negotiated with the federal government.

J. Uvin passed out a handout of the draft pre-validated results of agency performance scores for agencies providing adult education services. He stated that the document is embargoed as plans are to release this information at a public adult education event in late February.

J. O'Hare reported that since this committee meeting is an open meeting, the document is public and cannot be embargoed. J. Uvin noted that efforts are still underway with the validation process noting that agency executives are reviewing the results and are in the process of signing off on this report. He noted that RIDE has received a vast majority of the signoffs.

J. Uvin indicated that performance scores take a number of measures into account such as enrollment, completion of skill needs, high school credentialing rates, the development of meaningful skills, pre and post testing rates and instruction hours. He reported there are rewards of a performance bonus for those agencies performing well (\$8000 minimum) and a 3 stage process for those programs that are not doing as well. These stages include a warning

process, a probationary period and the transfer of funds to higher performing agencies or a partial reduction of resources. A discussion followed including comments on fix placed performance based contracts, per participant funding costs and performance, benchmark payments, and outsourcing of services.

M. Bueno commented that the Pre-Validation Draft report should note that the performance scores relate to adult education services and not the entire scope of services for these agencies. He also suggested that the results of this report be made available to students so they can make informed choices about their education provider.

Chair Warner noted committee support for a performance based evaluation system which could be considered in the next round of funding.

J. Uvin concluded this discussion indicating that possible goals could include transitioning to a collaboration of networks of agencies, working toward performance based funding over time and using rewards and penalties as incentives and disincentives. He also mentioned placing performance requirements inside of the contracts to agencies.

Proposed Consent Agenda

Chair Warner referred to the Consent Agenda which will enable the Office of Adult and Career and Technical Education to prepare for the next procurement process. J. Uvin reviewed the 6 decisions relating to adult education funding for FY11-FY15.

M. Bueno commented on item #1 noting that flexibility is needed when moving from a three year to a five year funding cycle. J. Warner acknowledged the need for mid- course corrections based on data compiled and evaluated during a 5 year cycle.

J. Uvin noted that a major goal is the commitment to the configuration of providers for a longer period of time than 3 years. He indicated this longer funding cycle will bring more stability to the programs noting that a shorter grant period not only impedes the process but will make it more difficult to get to the goal of reaching the 75th percentile.

There was a discussion initiated from comments on agenda item #4 by Chair Warner. He suggested that the top tier of skill certification should indicate that individuals are fully college ready. There were comments and suggestions made regarding skill levels for college readiness placement and the idea of keeping a student in an adult literacy program when extensive remedial work is needed. Chair Warner suggested the incorporation of a number of readiness measures and indicators for college level work that could be applied to the transition between adult literacy providers and college level study at CCRI, particularly in the subjects of reading, writing and math.

J. Uvin noted that he welcomed Chair Warner's proposed amendment to item #4 of the consent agenda as well as the suggestion of organizing a workshop between CCRI Accuplacer test administrators and adult education providers. This workshop could assist in providing a better understanding of the test and student results which would benefit the transition of adult education students into the college environment. J. Uvin suggested that a high level policy and advisory group could meet to work on guiding adult education students affected in this transition process.

Chair Warner asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda dated February 2009.

VOTE: P. MacDonald moved to approve incorporating the changes mentioned on item #4 by Chair Warner, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. The motion passed.

Public Event- Information/Discussion

Chair Warner mentioned an upcoming event on February 27th relating to the state of adult education in Rhode Island noting there would be a press conference and panel discussion. E. Jardine from the RIDE noted the Governor will speak about the “State of Adult Education in Rhode Island” highlighting progress made since the publication in 2004 of “Building Critical Links.” She indicated the Governor’s presentation would be followed by a panel discussion involving key members of the education, workforce, and legislative community including Commissioner Warner, Sandra Powell, Joseph MarcAurele, and Peter McWalters.

Other Business

J. Uvin mentioned to committee members about an effort with Mayor Cicilline and the Superintendent of Schools in Providence to create opportunities at nontraditional hours for out-of-school youth and adults to access the equipment and programs at the new career and technical education academy. He indicated this is an opportunity to align objectives and strategies from the GWB draft strategic plan and create pathways for youth and adults to build their skills to be more competitive for work, careers and postsecondary education and training. J. Uvin mentioned that he plans to report on this effort to the Youth Development committee, Strategic Investments committee and to the board. He invited committee members to attend the February 11th Youth Development Committee to learn more about this effort.

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

VOTE: R. Nangle moved to adjourn, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney