

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 23, 2010**

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Ray DiPasquale, Chair, Mario Bueno, Robert Nangle, Robin Coia, George Nee
Committee Members Absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Paul MacDonald
Others Present: Steve Maurano, RIBGHE; Roy Seitsinger and Deborah Anthes, RIDE; Heidi Collins, Poverty Institute
GWB Staff Present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff Present: Diane Gagne

Chairs Welcome and Remarks

Chair Di Pasquale called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Steve Maurano for his work as Chair of the Adult Education committee during the interim period. Chair Di Pasquale noted the full agenda and commented on the FY11 funding request for adult education. He mentioned that at the recent Youth Development Committee (YDC) meeting a vote was taken to reduce funding for youth programs to \$500,000 based on several factors including reduced projections of the JDF. He explained that at the YDC meeting Chair Melton requested that all of the JDF categories for funding be reviewed and reduced in an equitable amount that is fair to all programs. He indicated this includes the adult education funding request which is on the agenda as a voting item.

Approval of Minutes of 11/12/09

A motion was entered to approve the Adult Education and Literacy Committee meeting minutes of November 12, 2009.

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

Recommendations for the Next Sequence of Adult Education Reforms (PK-16)

Chair Di Pasquale asked Deb Anthes of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to provide an update on the next sequence of adult education reforms. He indicated this is an update to the presentation and recommendations that Johan Uvin recently made at the PK-16 council meeting.

D. Anthes referred to the handout entitled "Impact of Adult Education Reforms 2005-2009". She reported that this document describes the accomplishments in adult education over the last five years and looks ahead strategically for the next five. She discussed topics such as performance measures, average hours of instruction, total student hours, pre- and post-testing rates, performances on federal measures, skill gains over time, performance relative to state goals and federal and state funding. Further detail is provided in the handout which is available in the meeting packet.

Request for Proposals

Chair Di Pasquale referred to the handout entitled “Adult Education for College, Work & Career, Family, and Community”. He indicated this is a two page summary of the RFP that was released in late February for adult education for FY2011 – FY2015. He noted that the RFP in its entirety is available on the RIDE website. He asked D. Anthes to provide an overview of the RFP.

D. Anthes mentioned there continues to be a gap between the skills of the workforce and the jobs available. She acknowledged a lack of English proficiency and/or a high school and postsecondary credential for many adults. In the RFP, RIDE is seeking qualified not-for-profit agencies that can contribute to the achievement of several state wide outcomes, which are detailed in the RFP summary. D. Anthes indicated up to \$10 million in federal and state resources are being made available to achieve the objectives of the RFP. She emphasized the unique and effective collaboration of multiple state agencies supported by the Governor’s Office and the GWB as well as a number of work groups and advisory bodies.

De-obligations

Chair Di Pasquale asked Nancy Olson to report on de-obligations and provide an update on adult education funding. N. Olson reported that the Strategic Investments Committee has charged GWB staff with looking at unobligated and unused funds for the training and workforce expansion grants. She indicated that for adult education funding a total of \$462,000 was identified from carry over funds from the previous year (\$310,000), bonuses previously awarded to high performers (amount not stated) and de-obligations of \$12,000. N. Olson explained these items make up the \$500,000 reduction in funding for adult education and emphasized that these funding changes have no affect on vendors or services.

J. O’Hare explained that in addressing the funding reductions from the JDF, the de-obligation of funds is the first priority recommended by the Strategic Investments Committee. The second priority is to substitute, where appropriate, design changes which will allow the use of federal funds. He noted these actions were taken with the youth system, the Shared Youth Vision project and the contextualized training RFP. He noted that the contextualized RFP not only combines the adult basic education component with occupational skills, but incorporates separate funding streams.

FY11 Funding

Chair Di Pasquale asked R. Seitsinger to present the recommendation for FY11 adult education funding. R. Seitsinger acknowledged J. O’Hare’s previous comments regarding the strategy of the funding changes and indicated he is comfortable with the funding recommendation of \$4M for adult education.

J. O’Hare explained the difference between adult education funding and other programs supported by the GWB. He noted that a goal is to work towards funding the adult education system with federal funds when available and to work with design changes to create a system of sustainability. The RFP previously discussed is an example of this approach. He indicated one of the aspects of the RFP will support occupational skills which assist in getting people back to work quickly.

A motion was entered to recommend funding in the amount of \$4M for adult education for FY11.

VOTE: R. Nangle moved to approve, seconded by R. Coia. Mario Bueno and George Nee recused themselves from the discussion and abstained from the vote since they are members of a board or agency that receives this funding. All others approved. The motion passed

With no further business, a motion was entered to adjourn the Adult Education and Literacy Committee meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney