

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Adult Education & Literacy Committee Meeting
May 5, 2011**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Chair Ray Di Pasquale, Mario Bueno, George Nee, Robert Nangle, Paul MacDonald
Committee Members absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Robin Coia
RIDE Staff present: Philip Less, Andrea Castaneda, Kim Chouinard
GWB Staff present: Lisa D'Agostino, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Jen Buck
Others Present: Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm Baxter, United Way volunteer; Jill Holloway, Professional Development Center; Robin Smith, CCRI, Heidi Collins, Connecting for Children & Families, Shannon Carroll and Pheamo Witcher, Genesis Center
Location: RIDLT Conference room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Di Pasquale called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He spoke in general of the challenges facing the state with the lagging economy and the impact on education and employment. He noted the importance of adult education programs in the process of moving the state forward.

Minutes of 2/10/11

Chair Di Pasquale asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 2/10/11 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Adult Education Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

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

2011-2012 Extension of Rhode Island's Adult Education State Plan

Chair Di Pasquale asked Dr. Philip Less to present information on the Adult Education State Plan. P. Less stated that because the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was not reauthorized, the federal government requires an extension and revision of the current state plan annually. He noted that the major revisions in the 2011-2012 Plan are related to the performance benchmarks which are increased or decreased based on the previous year's results. He asked committee members to review page 7 of the plan which lists the proposed 2011-12 targets and compares these targets against the national average, 2009-2010 performance levels and 2010-11 targets.

As part of the discussion about the performance measures, a question was raised about the Department of Corrections (DOC) population and high school credentials; specifically how many people have less than a high school education? P. Less indicated he could find out that information for committee members.

Note: Following the meeting, Robin Smith of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) reported that according to the DOC Education Director, 60% of inmates lack a GED or high school diploma. It was noted that this information came from the DOC Planning and Research Unit.

G. Nee asked for an explanation of why some of the targets are being lowered. P. Less explained that the state plan revisions are submitted in the spring and that the proposed targets for 2010-2011 are based on performance from the year before and the national average. Since the year is not finished it is unknown at this time if the targets for this year will be met. He noted that federal guidelines state that the target must be greater than the actual performance from the previous year. Chair Di Pasquale noted the importance of the original assessment, of setting the target based on actual performance and of setting realistic goals. P. Less noted that the proposed 2010-2011 targets are not officially approved by the federal office.

Chair DiPasquale asked if there was a motion to recommend the approval of the 2011-2012 Extension of Rhode Island's Adult Education State Plan.

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

R. Nangle mentioned that going forward he would like to see a report that carries forward the performance measures and targets from year to year for comparison purposes. He suggested this information could be listed in a separate chart since it is not part of the submittal for the State Plan.

L. D'Agostino requested that if there are any changes to the State Plan based on the response from the federal office that these changes are brought back to the committee. She reported that the Adult Education State Plan would be reviewed by the GWB Planning & Evaluation Committee next week and then would be voted on by the full board.

P. Less asked committee members to review the chart entitled "Adult Education Enrollment and Performance Trends 2006-2010" which was requested by the committee from a previous meeting. There was a brief discussion on information contained in this chart.

Progress Report: Adult Education & Literacy Activities

Chair Di Pasquale asked P. Less to report on Adult Education activities. P. Less referred to the handout entitled "Progress Report for the Adult Education and Literacy Committee of the Governor's Workforce Board". P. Less reviewed the 5 year plan action items, the implementation status and specific information relating to each action item.

There was a question asked on the number of adult education teachers in the state. P. Less indicated he could get this information for committee members. There was a question on the educational requirements for adult education teachers. P. Less noted that Rhode Island does not have credentialing requirements for adult education teachers. He noted these requirements are specific to each state. P. Witcher stated that the key is to provide adult education teachers with ongoing professional development to get them where they need to be and that continuous learning and improvement are key elements in a successful adult education program.

Funding Request: FY12 Adult Education

Chair Di Pasquale asked P. Less 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 reviewed the specific funding sources for RIDE which includes general revenue, WIA, DHS funds and others.

P. Less asked committee members to review the chart entitled "FY 11 Adult Education Funded Providers JDF and Total Adult Education Allocation Comparison". P. Less pointed out that JDF funds support 18 programs, 9 of which are supported completely by JDF funds. P. Less explained that the next chart entitled "RIDE Adult Education Funding in Grants" provides the

funding level and sources of funds for the current fiscal year 2010 -2011 and next fiscal year 2011-2012. The chart provided a scenario of a funding request of \$3.5M and of \$3.85M. P. Lee stated that RIDE is asking for an increase of 10% in JDF funds and noted the funding request for FY12 adult education programs is \$3.85M.

When asked, L. D'Agostino explained that the vote today is for a recommendation for funding which must be presented to the Strategic Investments Committee and then the full board.

Since there was no further discussion, Chair DiPasquale asked if there was a motion to approve the recommendation for the FY12 funding request for Adult Education in the amount of \$3.85M.

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

Other Business

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

VOTE: R. Nangle moved to approve. M. Bueno seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney