

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Adult Education & Literacy Committee Meeting  
December 15, 2011**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Chair Ray Di Pasquale, Mario Bueno, Robin Coia  
Robert Nangle, Paul MacDonald  
Committee Members absent: George Nee  
RIDE Staff present: Philip Less, Kim Chouinard, Andrea Castaneda  
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Angelo  
Dafonseca, Maureen Mooney  
Others Present: Laura Hart, DLT; Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm  
Baxter, BIS; Robin Smith and Sharon Miles, CCRI  
Location: RIDLT Conference room 73-2

**Call to Order**

Chair Di Pasquale called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He provided an overview of the agenda.

**Minutes of 9/29/11**

Chair Di Pasquale asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 9/29/11 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Adult Education Committee. He asked if there were any corrections or deletions. P. MacDonald indicated he was absent from the 9/29/11 meeting and noted the minutes should reflect that he was excused since he was in the hospital. Chair DiPasquale asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

**VOTE:** R. Nangle moved to approve. P. MacDonald seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

**Job Development Funds Distribution**

Chair Di Pasquale asked Dr. Philip Less to provide an update on the distribution of the FY12 Job Development Fund (JDF) allocation to adult education providers. P. Less referred to the handout entitled "Updated 12-15-11 FY 2011-2012 Adult Education Funded Providers JDF and Total RIDE Allocation". He compared the funding data for FY11 and FY12 noting that in FY12, 29 of 36 programs were funded and that all programs were reduced by 10%. He explained the components of the RIDE funding which includes federal funds, WIA, Title 2 and adult basic education funds.

Andrea Castaneda provided an overview and update on the JDF budget for FY12. P. Less noted that since no compromise between the RI Department of Labor & Training (RIDLT) and the RI Department of Education (RIDE) was approved by the Legislature, JDF funds in the amount of \$2.3M were allocated to RIDE. He reported that some of the adult education programs were reinstated based on this additional funding. P. Less explained that as a result of the JDF funding issue, the performance data for the adult education programming was reviewed as a criterion for current and future funding. He indicated adult education providers are aware that performance data would be considered in the next year's funding cycle.

A discussion followed on the message that should be presented to the State Legislature to ensure that the misunderstanding on the allocation of JDF funds does not occur in the next fiscal year. Chair DiPasquale emphasized the importance of demonstrating the impact of JDF funding and getting this message to the legislators.

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## **Statewide Performance Results**

Chair Di Pasquale asked P. Less to provide an update on statewide performance results. P. Less referred to the handout entitled "Adult Education – The Big Picture" and explained charts detailing enrollment trends from 2005-2010, GED Test Takers and Passers, Adult Learners 2010-2011 Proficiency Levels, and Adult Learners 2010- 2011 ages.

There was an update and discussion on proposed changes for the GED exams. P. Less explained that the GED 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative set goals for the GED test to align it with the Common Core State Standards which would assist GED test-takers to prepare for college and for the workforce. He indicated that the American Council on Education (ACE) and Pearson VUE have formed a new partnership that will continue using the name GED Testing Service and that will design and deliver the GED test, in line with these goals. He noted there are plans to convert the GED exam into a computer-based test which would require additional computer and keyboard skills from test-takers. P. Less indicated that the new GED exam planned for 2014 will be more rigorous and reflect the Common Core State Standards in order to make sure everyone who earns a GED diploma is ready for higher education and for the workforce.

P. Less reviewed information on the hand-outs entitled: "RIDE Adult Education Performance-Final Data", "Participants by Entering Educational Functioning Level, Ethnicity and Sex", "Educational Gains and Attendance by Educational Functioning Level", "Core Follow-up Outcome Achievement", "Participant Status on Entry into the Program", and "Core Follow-up Outcome Achievement".

## **GWB Priorities**

Chair Di Pasquale reported that the GWB Executive Committee recently met and asked for feedback on the priorities identified at the December 1<sup>st</sup> board retreat. He referred to the handout entitled "Attachment B" Draft Worksheet: Prioritizing Short-term Objectives for GWB". He reviewed Goal 3: The Adult Workforce is Skilled and Agile. Chair DiPasquale asked committee members to review the objectives stated and noted the 3 priorities that were identified. There was discussion and agreement on the prioritized objectives however it was noted all of the objectives are relevant and important to the goal.

Chair DiPasquale stated that another objective should include a stronger partnership with RIDE specifically with the Office of Adult Education. Committee members discussed the prioritized objectives and were in agreement. Chair DiPasquale indicated the short term priorities identified by board members would be discussed more fully at the January board meeting.

Chair DiPasquale thanked P. Less for the comprehensive information presented at the meeting and for his work with adult education programs.

## **Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney