

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Adult Education & Literacy Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Chair Robert Nangle, Mario Bueno, George Nee, Robin Coia, Paul MacDonald
RIDE Staff present: Dr. Philip Less,
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Amelia Roberts
Others Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Jill Holloway, PDC; Irena Nedeljkovic, EPI
Location: RIDLT Conference room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Nangle called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair Nangle asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the December 5, 2013 Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Adult Education & Literacy Committee meeting. Before the approval of the minutes, Chair Nangle referred to the Action Items from the minutes and asked Elizabeth Jardine to provide an update on the total amount of adult educational funding for Rhode Island.

In reference to the developmental education discussion that took place at the last meeting, E. Jardine noted 4,000 individuals were enrolled in developmental/remedial courses at CCRI in Fall 2013. She added that the cost per credit is slightly higher than adult education costs, but not as high as originally anticipated. E. Jardine noted the cost does not factor in state funds that support CCRI, but she is currently working with a CCRI staff member to gather data on both tuition and state dollars to determine an accurate cost per student.

The committee discussed Pell Grants, increased cost to take the new GED test, test waivers, administrative costs, and changes in how the GED test is administered. Chair Nangle inquired about the number of people who take the test each year. Dr. Less reported that around 3,000 individuals took at least one section of the test, and about 2,400 finished all five sections.

Action Item

Chair Nangle requested feedback from the community based organizations on the barriers of the GED test how people are reacting to the increased cost. Chair Nangle requested to continue the GED discussion at the next committee meeting.

Chair Nangle asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Less made an amendment to the last paragraph of minutes, noting that about 70% of the Rhode Island Senior Class is required to take a developmental course.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Mario Bueno. All were in favor, the motion was passed unanimously.

GWB Performance Report – Adult Education

Chair Nangle asked Elizabeth Jardine to discuss the Adult Education Performance Report. E. Jardine referred to the Q2 Performance Report handout and highlighted the targets and progress of Job Development Adult Education investments. She stated the total number of enrollees as of the end of Q2 (12/30/13) was 1,512. The number of internships/work experiences among Adult Education participants was 149, and the number of high school credentials earned was 57. The committee discussed the Educational Functioning Level completions and clarification of target definitions. R. Brooks suggested changing the target to “Advancement” or adding clarification in the notes section. E. Jardine noted that prescriptive target definitions can make it difficult to report different types of programs in the Unified Expenditure Program Report (UEP). The committee further discussed how employment gains and retention are measured and reported. Dr. Less highlighted the process of tracking participants after they have finished an adult education program.

Developmental Course Comparison

Chair Nangle asked Dr. Less to discuss the developmental course comparison of New England States. Dr. Less referred to the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 spreadsheets, highlighting Rhode Island’s increase in percent gains from 48% to 52%, which is the highest among Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He noted the total number of enrollees has decreased from 6,345 to 5,781, likely due to inaccurate data reporting in 2011-2012 by the Department of Corrections. Chair Nangle noted that every state’s enrollment decreased. Dr. Less reported that Rhode Island’s percent gains are in the nation’s top quartile. The committee discussed the difference in state funding and expenditure per student reported to the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS). Dr. Less noted that not all state funds are reported to the NRS, only those used as a match to federal funds. He reported that Rhode Island’s expenditure per student was \$1,054.96 in 2012-2013, the second lowest among the New England States.

Employer – Adult Education Provider Session

Chair Nangle asked Elizabeth Jardine to discuss the Adult Education Provider Session. E. Jardine announced on April 18th, three to four actively hiring Rhode Island employers and adult education providers will participate in a two-part interactive session of mock interviews and a 45 minute feedback discussion. Incumbent Worker Training Grant recipients will be encouraged to participate and the session will be announced at the March 7th Employer Committee meeting and April 11th Employer Advisory Group meeting.

Adjournment:

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

VOTE: Robin Coia moved to approve, seconded by George Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts