



Governor's Workforce Board RI
Adult Education & Literacy Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 5, 2014
8:30 am – 10:00 am
RIDLT, Conference Room 73-2

Today's Vision... Tomorrow's Opportunity.

Committee Members present: Chair Robert Nangle, Mario Bueno, George Nee
Committee Members not present: Robin Coia, Paul MacDonald
RIDE Staff present: Dr. Philip Less
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Hillary Feeney, Dan Brown, Amelia Roberts
Others Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Jill Holloway, PDC; Irena Nedeljkovic, EPI; Karisa Tashjian, RIFLI; Sophie Tan, RIILSR; Mary Jo Feeney, MJIF Consulting

Call to Order

Chair Nangle called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

April 18th GWB/Adult Education Mock Interview Session

Chair Nangle referred to the notes from the GWB/Adult Education Mock Interview Session on April 18, 2014 and discussed the feedback from the adult learners, employers, and educators who participated in the session. R. Nangle encouraged educators to provide guidance to adult learners on how to network and be proactive in their job searches. He noted many of the adult learners come with additional support that employers were unaware of. R. Nangle recommended educators should schedule more sessions to provide adult learners with interview experience and increase their confidence. J. Holloway noted some adult education agencies have a more robust relationship with employers than others and the Professional Development Center is working to target agencies that need additional support in connecting with businesses.

Minutes

Chair Nangle asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the March 6, 2014 Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Adult Education & Literacy Committee meeting. Chair Nangle asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

GWB Performance Report – Adult Education

Chair Nangle asked Dr. Philip Less to discuss the GWB Quarterly Performance. Dr. Less referred to the performance report handout, noting the QIII expenditures reported (\$812,562.10) may be low due to the timing of the quarterly report and when programs submit their reimbursement requests. Dr. Less discussed self-reported and data-system targets, requesting further clarification on the definition of work readiness training and number trained. He highlighted the definition of employment according to federal reporting requirements as the quarter after separation. He noted if participants are employed before entering adult education, they are reported under the retained employment measurement. Dr. Less further discussed the project specific goals, stating the large increase in high school credentials (from 33 to 94) was due to the transition from paper to computerized GED testing. The state saw a 25% increase in administered tests because scores from the 2002 series could not be rolled over. Dr. Less stated Retained Employment data is not collected until the third quarter after a participant's exit.

Action Item:

Chair Nangle asked for an annual update of demographic information at the next meeting and requested a quarterly demographic report going forward.

Moving Pathways Forward Technical Assistance Award

Chair Nangle asked Dr. Less to discuss the *Moving Pathways Forward* Technical Assistance Award. Dr. Less referred to the handout and presented the background of the project. He reported the award is a three-year intensive technical assistance project supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. H. Feeney noted the project aims to further integrate adult education into broader career pathways system development at the state and local levels and will provide technical assistance to assist in accelerating the development and implementation of the career pathways system.

Changes to GED and Pending Legislation

Chair Nangle asked Dr. Less to provide an update to the recent GED changes and pending legislation. Dr. Less reported the RI Senate Bill 2812, which was scheduled for consideration, would require the Board of Education to consider several factors in determining which high school equivalency test would be recognized by the state, including cost, recognition of the test, portability, and other criteria. He noted the Senate Bill also states the Board of Education should adopt regulations to waive test fees based on a sliding fee scale as determined by the Department. Dr. Less noted RI House Bill 7564 is very similar to the Senate Bill, but included \$200,000 to be used for test fee waivers. The committee discussed the impact of the legislative requirement to provide fee waivers. Dr. Less reported two bills are pending to eliminate the Adult Education wait list. He stated the current total wait list is 1,600, including many individuals who have been waiting over a year. Chair Nangle inquired about the cost to eliminate the wait list. Dr. Less estimated a total of \$2 million would be needed to eliminate the wait list, noting the House Bill included \$2 million and the Senate Bill included \$1 million.

RIagent Demonstration

Jill Holloway, Director of the RI Adult Education Professional Development Center, discussed the background, goals, and intended outcomes of the RIagent project. She introduced, Mary Jo Feeney of MJIF Consulting to present the beta site and demonstrate how users can navigate the site to access resources. The committee discussed the positive impact of utilizing the site to coordinate state efforts and better serve Rhode Islanders.

Adjournment:

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts