

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Adult Education & Literacy Committee Meeting  
December 15, 2015**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Chair Susan Rittscher, Suzy Alba, Mario Bueno, Robin Coia,

Other Board Members Present: Monica Dzialo, Constance Howes

RIDE Staff present: Dr. Philip Less, Nancy Labonte  
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Dan Brown, Kristen McKenna,  
Others Present: Hector Riviera, Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Jill Holloway, PDC; Dr. Albert Alba, RIDOC, Sophia Tan, ILSR, Nancy Olson

Location: RIDLT Conference room 73-2

**Call to Order**

Chair Rittscher called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Chair Rittscher had a brief introduction of all committee members and welcomed everyone.

**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Rittscher asked for a review of the meeting minutes of June 3, 2015 Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Adult Education & Literacy Committee meeting. Chair Rittscher asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Mario Bueno moved to approve. George Nee seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Adult Education Performance Results**

Chair Rittscher asked Dr. Philip Less to provide an update on the Adult Education Performance Results. Dr. Less noted accountability is very important. They have come up with some good targets. He noted we are dealing with a difficult population. Rick Brooks asked if the people that started with a job do they end with a job. Dr. Less stated that the program does not turn anyone away. Chair Rittscher thought is very important how we measured employment. Dr. Less noted the through the JDF 454 Adult Learners served, 15% not in labor force, 455 unemployed, 102 obtained employment, 98 employer partners 71 work experiences. Connie Howes asked what is the period of time spent in the Adult Education Program, are they the same people, does it take longer than a quarter to get this individual going. Dr Less noted yes, they might already be in the

program. The average number of hours is 120. Some do 6 to 20 hours a week and this is for 20 weeks. Dr. Less mentioned there are 59 Educational functioning levels increased. Suzy Alba asked, how we define the functional level. Dr. Less noted the students come in to take a functional level test, English, math. Suzy asked of the 71 work experiences, did they do some work or training. Dr. Less noted work training / career training. Dr. Less mentioned the 0(zero) High School Diplomas / GEDs obtained. He said it looks bad, 225 test takers, 412 GED test taken, 806 GED ready practice test, 94 passed first test and 62 passed all test. He noted the pass rate is above National level, math is low 64%. He said a lot of people in Rhode Island received GED in the first quarter. Chair Rittscher asked if we there is a way we can report these numbers if someone picks this data up. It would be more explanatory. The targets information reported is from FY 2015. Chair Rittscher asked noted the change in numbers for 2013 – 2015 a drop of 4953. Connie Howes asked was there any decrease. Dr. Less noted programs were level funded. Mario Bueno noted the winter of 2015 was a big factor for Progresso Latino, as for the GED no one was coming out to take the test. Dr. Less noted students that are studying for the GED is taking much longer. The federal targets for 2015 -2016 increased ABE beginning literacy 2013-2014 dropped 2%. We have to invest time to make these programs work. You have to be welcoming to students. The targets for 2016-2106 we are above the National Level on everything.

### **United Way Convening Project for Adult Education**

Chair Rittscher had a short discussion with Mario Bueno. She noted it would be helpful to have a group discussion at the next Adult Education & Literacy Committee meeting. The United Way Report gathered input from over 300 Rhode Islanders, with a focus on Adult learners, Adult education and occupational training providers and state agency staff about foundational skills development in Rhode Island. The reports takes action to improve foundational skills in our state.

The committee discussion took place, Mario highlighted some keys points in the report, what would drive Adult Education for the next 4-5 years, opportunity to look at ways to better Adult Education for the next 5 to 10 years, strengthen Adult Education, structure / sustained Adult education, level funding are we going to set goals. He noted he would like to see further discussion with RIDE in moving forward. Connie asked are there any additional funding that RI received besides the \$3.5 million from the JDF. RIDE dos received \$2.5 million from the general assembly, \$2.M goes towards grant & programs, \$2.1 M in Federal Funds. Chair Rittscher asked if we had any data we can think about Adult Education getting more assistant. Dr. less noted there is always a way of getting people off public assistants. Robin Coia asked if students drop out does the money allocated does it follow that student. Dr. Less noted no. Mario noted in the report United Way Report certain ideas we can look at such as, What do we do now that we have the report, how do we proceed and get this accomplished in a timely manner. Chair Rittscher stated as a for the Adult Education group, over 2016 we can figure out how we plan on getting things done through a working session.

### **Adjournment:**

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

**VOTE:** Suzy Alba moved to approve. Robin Coia seconded the motion.  
The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown