

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2007**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mia Caetano-Johnson, Paul MacDonald, William McGowan, Adelita Orefice

Members Absent: Mario Bueno, Armeather Gibbs

Staff Present: Michael Koback, Marsha McDowell

DLT Staff: John O'Hare, Sandra Powell, David Tremblay

Location: RI Department of Labor & Training

With a quorum present, Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:13 AM. He explained that the Committee will be discussing and formulating a vision and strategy for the modification of the two-year Workforce Investment Act Plan and the five year Comprehensive Workforce System Plan. The goal is to have an approved version of the two-year draft State Plan available for submittal to the Governor's Workforce Board for their approval at their meeting on April 19, 2007. The State Plan would then be submitted to the Governor for approval and signature, and then forwarded to USDOL by May 1, 2007.

Chair McGowan reported that comments and changes to the State Plan which have been made so far have been given to Committee members. Input from the members was encouraged and they were advised to send additional comments to John O'Hare, Administrator for the Workforce Investment Act Office. The focus is to keep federal training dollars coming into the State. He announced that the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce had been selected as the consultant to assist in the development of the five-year Workforce System Plan. A good portion of the two-year State Plan will be incorporated into the five-year plan, which would include the work the Board has already done with the Industry Partnerships, the restructuring of NetWORKri, Adult Literacy and Youth initiatives, and key priorities and strategies for workforce development for the State of Rhode Island.

J. O'Hare stated that the draft two-year State Plan must be available by March 29, 2007. Mr. O'Hare directed the Committee's attention to the material in their folders; the Federal Guidance Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 13-06, and the local Planning Guidance issued to the Local Workforce Investment Boards on February 19, 2007. Mr. O'Hare presented a synopsis of the two documents mentioned, on a new strategic vision. The State Plan basically has to fit within the framework and address the eight themes which are listed. One theme that was not an emphasis last year, but is this year is the federal government's focus on a regional approach to all State Plans, looking at the entire labor market in which the Boards are working without regard to political jurisdiction. Basically, they are looking for collaboration among the states.

Ms. Orefice stated that the Workforce System must operate as a Talent Development System to develop talent in the region and eliminate political and jurisdictional boundaries, with the goal of attracting industries to the state or region. She stated that the WIRED Grants available through the USDOL to strengthen the workforce development system in high growth areas on a state level will now be done on a regional level.

J. O'Hare stated that once the vision and priorities are approved, the Executive Summary will be included with a Public Hearing Notice to be placed in the Providence Journal on March 24th. The Public Hearing will take place on April 16, 2007. The State Plan will then be submitted to the Governor's Workforce Board for approval at their April 19, 2007 meeting.

The Local Workforce Investment Board Draft Plans (WIB) are due in the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO) on April 5, 2007, and their Final Plans submitted to SWIO on May 10, 2007 to be approved by this Committee and then submitted to the GWBRI for approval at their June 21, 2007 Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell