

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 8, 2008**

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: William McGowan, Mario Bueno, Sandra Powell, Saul Kaplan
Mia Caetano Johnson
Members Absent: Paul MacDonald
GWB Staff Present: J. Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, Maureen Mooney, David Francis
Guests: John O'Hare, Lisa D'Agostino, Kathy Partington, David Tremblay
Location: RI Department of Labor & Training, Conference room 69-1

CALL TO ORDER AND CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the key agenda item is the review of the blueprint of the strategic plan. He mentioned that he spoke with J. MarcAurele and that the intent is for the Planning & Evaluation committee and the GWB to have ample time to provide input on the plan. Chair McGowan indicated that the consultants from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) may attend the May GWB meeting and that a formal vote on the plan will occur then.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was entered to approve the 3-05-08 meeting minutes of the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

VOTE: S. Powell moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All approved.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chair McGowan turned the meeting over to M. Koback for an overview of the strategic plan. M. Koback provided an introduction to the slide show noting it is the RI version of Shift Happens and it identifies future challenges in the development of workforce, economic and educational goals. A handout of the slide show is available in the meeting packet.

M. Koback noted that the draft plan is essentially complete but there is work to be done with the objectives and strategies. He reported that the plan will be presented to the board, and to the Workforce Cabinet. The Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) will be conducting the focus groups which should be completed in May or June and will be followed by a public hearing once the board approves the plan. He indicated the resource mapping piece should be completed by September.

S. Powell mentioned that this strategic plan is not a federal requirement and stated the goal is for the GWB to set the footprint for the state and not impose the strategies. The strategies will be developed by the stakeholders of the workforce development system. Currently we have developed the framework by which we want to invest in and focus on building RI's workforce.

M. Caetano-Johnson suggested there is a glaring hole in this plan which should include the goal of attracting new companies to RI to increase the number of jobs. She did indicate the goal may not be appropriate for this document but definitely should be considered as part of the overall workforce development plan.

S. Kaplan agreed on the importance of integrating the strategies of the workforce development strategic plan with the state's economic development strategy and plan. We need to focus on what it takes to accomplish the goals of the economic development plan to ensure we have a workforce that is qualified to participate in it.

J. O'Hare mentioned that this plan will become a guiding plan for the GWB and will provide a frame of reference to other state plans in determining if they are in compliance.

S. Powell explained that from a workforce system standpoint, the goal is to create a strong workforce that becomes part of the economic development system that attracts new businesses. She noted that 60% of the workforce of 2020 is already working which requires that we focus on growing the skills of the people in the current workforce as well.

M. Koback referred to the Executive Summary acknowledging David Tremblay for crafting the language for this. He noted that the first statement of the Executive Summary emphasizes the point that S. Powell just mentioned. "There exists no greater threat to our collective prosperity in Rhode Island- and no greater opportunity- than raising the skill and competitiveness of our workers." A brief discussion of the executive summary statistics followed.

M. Bueno mentioned he is comfortable with the goals but asked at what stage the objectives will be finalized. M. Koback indicated that CSW will be brought back to assist with this effort within the next couple of months.

A motion was entered to endorse the foundation established in the draft of the strategic plan and to move it forward to the GWB for consideration.

VOTE: M. Bueno moved to approve, seconded by S. Powell. All approved.

WIA Policy Issuance 07-15

M. Koback asked J. O'Hare to review the Policy Issuance. J. O'Hare noted that WIA Policy Issuance 07-14 has not been issued yet. He briefly discussed the Workforce Investment Notice: 07-15, a copy of which is in the meeting packet. He referred to the page of the WIA Policy Issuance which portrays a map of RI WIA ASU's (Areas of Substantial Unemployment). He briefly explained the ASU's and federal government formula for funding to the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI) and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston based on the distribution of ASU's.

A motion was entered to approve the WIA Policy Issuance 07-15.

VOTE: M. Bueno moved to approve, seconded by M. Caetano-Johnson. All approved.

M. Koback thanked everyone for all of the hard work done on the strategic planning document presented. J. O'Hare thanked Kathleen Partington for her work on the PowerPoint presentation.

Chair McGowan entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: M. Bueno moved to approve, seconded by Mia Caetano-Johnson.
All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney