

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Planning and Evaluation Committee Meeting
March 9, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: William McGowan, Mario Bueno, Sandra Powell, Pheamo Witcher
Committee Members absent: Mia Caetano-Johnson, Paul MacDonald
GWB Staff present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Donna Treglia, David Tremblay, Jenn Buck, Connie Parks, Sue Chomka, Jim Glover
Location: RI Department of Labor & Training, Conference room 72-1

Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

A motion was entered to approve the meeting minutes of the November 10, 2009 Planning and Evaluation Committee.

VOTE: S. Powell moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Workforce Investment Notices

D. Treglia of the State Workforce Investment Office reviewed the following WIN notices:

Workforce Investment Notice: **09-10** Allocations for Contextualized Education and Training using Workforce Investment Act and/or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Set-Aside funds

D. Treglia reported the purpose of this notice is to provide Locals with the authorization to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain bids for Contextualized Education and Training tied to Career Pathways in High Demand Employment Sectors using up to \$1,500,000 of State Set-Aside funds from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and/or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the period May 21, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Workforce Investment Notice: **09-11** Allocations for Youth Center Services for PY 2009 from the Job Development Fund

D. Treglia reported the purpose of this notice is to provide Locals with allocations for PY2009 (FY2010) Youth Center Services from the Job Development Fund (JDF) using the same formula as WIA Youth allocations for PY 2009.

With no further questions or discussion, Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the WIN notices as presented.

VOTE: M. Bueno moved to approve, seconded by P. Witcher. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Approval of Modifications to One-Year Plans due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by the Local Workforce Boards

D. Treglia explained that the Planning and Evaluation Committee and Board previously approved WIN 08-17 through the consent agenda which provided guidance to local areas regarding modification procedures relative to the receipt of additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and Program Year 2009 WIA formula funds. She indicated the modifications have been made to the one-year plans of the 2 LWIBs which were subject to a public hearing and approved by both local boards. These modifications are now being presented to this committee.

D. Treglia noted that, as outlined in WIN 09-06, there was an additional allocation of PY2009 WIA funds to supplement the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program. She indicated the additional funds are part of the Harkin Amendment. D. Treglia reported that these funds are included in the WPGRI modification #2 which has been approved by their board, and did not require a public hearing. She reported that Providence Cranston Workforce Solutions incorporated the funding from the Harkin Amendment to their modification #1.

With no further questions or discussion, Chair McGowan requested a motion to move these modifications from the Planning & Evaluation committee to the board.

VOTE: P. Witcher moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Waiver Requests

Rapid Response

D. Treglia reported on recent discussions regarding funding through ARRA and through rapid response and explained how this funding can be utilized. She indicated that a waiver is being developed to permit that a portion of rapid response funds be used for incumbent worker training, noting it has to be a part of the layoff aversion process. D. Treglia mentioned that some states that have submitted waivers have received them, others have not. She restated the importance of addressing the layoff aversion piece when requesting the waiver.

J. O'Hare noted that there is a large amount of money available through rapid response, and noted the restrictions in the expenditures of these funds. He commented that the reduction in JDF funds will provide an opportunity to put federal funds into layoff aversion and incumbent worker training.

N. Olson commented that the GWB received the most requests for the Incumbent Worker Training grants in this round, totaling \$3.5M. She noted that utilizing federal funds to replace the shortfall in JDF funds is another way to assist some of these companies.

SWIB Waiver Request

D. Treglia reported on an anticipated waiver request for a change in the composition of the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB). She asked the federal USDOL about the wording of the waiver. She was advised that if the Governor amends his Executive Order to include the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary education and an additional business representative, then a waiver would not be required. D. Treglia noted that the addition of another business representative meets the current requirements for a business majority. Providing the amended Executive Order and the Governor's appointments to the regional DOL office will provide the documentation required to meet federal regulations.

Update on State WIA Plan Extension for PY10

D. Treglia reported that at the winter policy forum of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies on February 18, 2010, Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Labor, announced that the

WIA plan, which was set to expire on June 30, 2010, would be extended automatically for one year. D. Treglia noted that if WIA reauthorization passes, the states would have PY2010 to transition to the provisions noted in the new statute.

CCRI 21st Century Workforce Commission Legislative Recommendations

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to report on the CCRI 21st Century Workforce Commission. D. Tremblay reported that this commission met on February 9th and issued its final draft of recommendations. He explained that this commission was brought together through legislation to look at how to bring the community college together, particularly its Center for Workforce and Community Education and to make it more relevant for employers and workers. There were 3 recommendations:

- Enact legislation to create a state career pathways system that is driven by industry needs
- Expand the community colleges capacity to raise the knowledge and skill levels across the state's population
- Create a culture of responsiveness at CCRI (funding, flexible purchasing options, state career pathways system)

D. Tremblay noted that the recommendations specifically mentioned the GWB and their responsibility for establishing this system, and reporting out on it. A draft bill was written that specifies this (copy in meeting packet). Each recommendation has legislation that is in process with House and Senate leadership along with the Governor's participation. The final recommendations are expected to be rolled out in April. D. Tremblay noted that the GWB will oversee the state career pathways system for the purposes of increasing the skill level of RI workers in alignment with industry needs. A subcommittee, that is similar in nature to ESAC, will be established.

Other Business

David Tremblay updated the committee on the Plan Management team, noting that it includes state agency representatives that have a responsibility for implementing elements of workforce development. The team will be meeting on March 17th, to review the events of 2009 and how they tie back into the plan.

David Tremblay handed out a summary of the Providence Chamber's initiative on the Knowledge Economy, which provided details on the action steps for 2010. He noted the main goal for this year includes developing workforce development objectives which model the state strategic plan.

Adjournment

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

A motion was entered to adjourn the meeting of the Planning and Evaluation committee.

VOTE: P. Witcher moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney