

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF)**

July 12, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Brandon Melton, Chair, Marc Amato, Charles Fogarty, Jill Holloway, Kevin McDevitt, William McGowan, Michael Sabitoni, Robin Smith, Bill Weedon

Committee Members not present: Andrea Castaneda, Ray Di Pasquale, Deborah Gist, Jeffrey Senese, Kathie Shields

GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff present: David Tremblay

Others Present: Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Laura Faulkner, Economic Progress Institute; Tom Costello, Community College of RI; Carmen Ferguson, United Way; Lynn Watterson, P. Jane May, Sharon Miles, CCRI; Sharon Lee, RIDE; Kazra Cummings, Lifespan
Kathleen Kane, St. Antoine Teamhealth; John Frieda, Providence Journal; Sarah Griffin; Richard Langseth, Greenwich Bay Watershed; Philip Less, RIDE

Call to Order

Chair Melton called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda.

Minutes of Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF)

Chair Melton asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the May 10, 2012 CPSTF meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Vote: W. McGowan motioned to approve the minutes of the 5/10/12 CPSTF meeting. M. Amato seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

Career Pathways System: Update

Chair Melton asked Tom Costello to provide an update on the work relating to the career pathways system. T. Costello reviewed the hand-out entitled "Six Key Elements" which included discussion of the following topics: building cross-agency partnerships and clarification of roles; identifying sector or industry and engaging employers; designing education and training programs; identifying funding needs and sources; aligning policies and programs; and measuring system change and performance. He reviewed the key steps for each. Both Robin Smith and Chair Melton thanked T. Costello for his work on the CPSTF noting the funding for his position was ending.

RIDE CP Initiatives

Chair Melton asked Sharon Lee to provide an update on the RI Department of Education (RIDE) career pathways initiatives. S. Lee provided an overview of the Office of Multiple Pathways which includes the teams of Secondary Education, Career and Technical Education, Adult Basic Education and GED, and Virtual Learning. She noted that this integrated system provides an opportunity for learners to have increased opportunities to engage in rigorous academic and career preparation to meet the demands of high skilled and high wage jobs in Rhode Island.

She noted there is opportunity to obtain certifications and credentials in preparation for post secondary education and training.

S. Lee mentioned the recent awarding of a \$4M grant to RIDE to develop a Statewide Longitudinal Data System that will reach across primary and secondary education, higher education and the workforce. She noted that RIDE is the lead on the initiative and partnering with RIDLT, the Office of Higher Education, and the RI Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA). The Providence Plan will oversee the development of the system.

CCRI PACE Grant

Chair Melton asked Robin Smith to provide an overview of the PACE grant. R. Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation and covered the topics: PACE program goals, current status of the program, PACE Industry Partners, Projections for RI Jobs in Healthcare and IT Career Pathways, and Recruitment.

USDOL Workforce Innovation Fund

Chair Melton asked Rick Brooks to present information on the USDOL Workforce Innovations Grant. R. Brooks spoke of the federal grant recently awarded to the RIDLT in the amount of \$2.7M. He noted that a key goal of this grant is to develop and expand innovative strategies to help those unemployed and underemployed return to work by delivering services more efficiently across programs and funding streams and focusing on partnerships, including new industry sectors. He mentioned that a strong evaluation component is associated with the grant and that a work readiness credential is included as a component. He indicated that David Tremblay is the lead on this grant. Director Fogarty acknowledged the work of D. Tremblay and partners in submitting the application for this grant. He stated that the time frame was tight and that the application was built on the strong work already begun by the CPSTF.

Career Pathways 2.0

Chair Melton asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the CPSTF work. R. Brooks spoke of the accomplishments of the task force and noted the resources and commitments of Senior leadership, the multi agency leadership team and Industry Partners. He noted the importance of the PACE grant in the establishment of a career pathways system. He mentioned the recent partnership of the Department of Human Services specifically with the utilization of TANF funds for youth summer employment. He stated that the Workforce Innovations Grant was another key element in the alignment of career pathways work statewide.

Key Next Steps

Chair Melton reviewed the work of the CPSTF since its inception, noting that the task force has been meeting every other month since early 2011. He indicated that the Planning Group has met frequently and to plan for upcoming meetings and to ensure program alignment. He noted the resources provided for the work of the CPSTF both through Job Development funding, and CCRI federal grant funding. He noted the volunteer service and assistance of the Industry Partners particularly in the IT and Healthcare fields.

Chair Melton noted there are two CPSTF meetings scheduled through the end of the calendar year. He suggested that the CPSTF may reconstitute itself in a different form in the next calendar year. He suggested that meetings could be changed to a quarterly or biannual schedule. He indicated that the CPSTF Leadership Team will continue to meet and will work with the Workforce Innovations Grant Team and that the GWB will continue to provide oversight and approval on the work of career pathways. Chair Melton acknowledged the important agency commitments of RIDE, Higher Education, DHS, and DLT in this work. He noted that the awarding of the Workforce Innovations Grant, the PACE grant and the Longitudinal Data System grant suggests further collaboration with the State agencies and work on career

pathways. Chair Melton noted the recent addition of the Manufacturing Industry Partnership with RIMES which will assist in building out further pathways for the workforce. He noted that the career pathways work will reach out to all of the areas associated with the Industry Partners.

Chair Melton asked for comments and suggestions in determining the continuing work of the task force. He noted there may be some members who are not interested in serving in the future but that all are invited to participate. He indicated there will be more discussion on the sustainability of the CPSTF at the next meeting along with an update on the Career Pathways work plan.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Melton asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: K. McDevitt motioned to adjourn the meeting. W. McGowan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney