

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting
April 3, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Mario Bueno, Constance Howes, William McGowan, Brandon Melton, George Nee, Martin Trueb
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Laura Hart, Paul Genovesi, Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Ray Filippone
Others Present: Tom Costello, CCRI; Judy Jones, Economic Progress Institute, Philip Less, RIDE; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Robert Ricci and Ann Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, Dianne Vendetti, Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island; Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Phil D'Ambra, Division of Taxation;

Call to Order

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the March 1, 2012 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Review of Cost Allocation Plan, RIDLT and Department of Revenue Agreement and Services Provided to RIDLT by the Division of Taxation

Chair McGowan asked Diane Gagne to provide an overview of the Cost Allocation Plan determined by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). D. Gagne provided a summary of the agreement between DLT and the Department of Revenue – Division of Taxation noting that the purpose is to set the standards under which the Division of Taxation is funded for services performed relative to the administration and collection of Employment Security (ES), Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) and Job Development Fund (JDF) taxes on behalf of the DLT. She explained that the agreement dates back to 1997 when the Tax Division was housed at DLT. Ray Filippone, Assistant Director of the DLT Income Support section, explained the cost sharing allocation percentages of the tax activities and noted that the USDOL determined this by reviewing the work by unit. P. D'Ambra explained the work of the organizational units involved in the tax operations. He noted there are 34 employees in the Tax Division. He explained that the method of allocation used to determine each tax program's share of the costs of tax collection activities is based on the number of bytes of information contained in the employer tax files. There were questions raised and comments about the cost sharing percentages. It was stated that the cost sharing percentages be reviewed and/or renegotiated. It was stated that with the condition of the economy and the high unemployment rate, and the lack of job creation, it was imperative to maximize the JDF to assist employers.

After a lengthy discussion, Constance Howes expressed her appreciation for the work of the Department of Revenue. She stated for the record there are concerns on the cost of this work.

VOTE: C. Howes made a motion that Director Fogarty contact David Sullivan at the Division of Taxation to review the costs associated with the operating budget of the Tax Unit. G. Nee seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Prior to the funding requests on the agenda, Executive Counsel, Sean Fontes recommended that any member with a conflict of interest with the voting items, recuse themselves from the vote and from the discussion.

Mario Bueno stated he completed a Statement of Conflict of Interest for the agenda item relating to the Funding Request for FY13 for Adult Education funding, indicating his organization receives a RI Department of Education Adult Education grant.

Funding Request: FY13: Youth Center Funding \$450,000

Chair McGowan asked Robert Ricci and Diane Vendetti to present the FY13 funding request for the Youth Centers. D. Vendetti provided an overview of the youth centers noting there are 7 centers throughout the state. She referred to the handout which lists the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island (WPGRI) and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC) contracts. She noted that 2 centers were operated by WSPC and 5 were operated by the WPGRI. She stated that the youth centers serve all youth and that 91% of these youth would not be served without JDF.

R. Ricci explained the eligibility, limitations and barriers for WIA funding and provided an overview of some of the services provided at the centers. He stated that without the JDF the number of youth served would decline. Carlos Ribeiros provided an overview of the youth center points of entry and the vendors associated with the contracts. There was a chart detailing the level of services of the centers from 4/1/07 through 12/31/11.

Constance Howes asked if the LWIBS have reviewed the funding criteria set by the board to evaluate funding decisions. R. Ricci noted the leveraging of funds for WIA programs, the targeting of at risk youth and the leveraged funding and in-kind services provided by community based organizations. He noted the credential provided by the Summer Youth Employment RFP.

C. Howes suggested that going forward, the next RFP for summer programs utilizing JDF should incorporate some of the criteria set by the board and spell out specific goals to determine and measure successful outcomes. C. Ribeiro referred to the handout entitled "JDF Data Collection" which provides a matrix of outcomes from the period of 5/1/2007 through 12/31/11. R. Brooks noted the importance of sustainability and that GWB maintains its commitment to youth investments. He stated that funding for youth services is subject to review and re-consideration.

With no further discussion, Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the funding request for FY13 Youth Center funding in the amount of \$450,000.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Funding Request: FY 13: Adult Education \$3.5M

Chair McGowan asked Dr. Philip Less from the RI Department of Education to present the funding request for FY13 Adult Education programs. P. Less reviewed the handout entitled "Rhode Island Department of Education – Adult Education" and stated that more than 6,000 adult learners were enrolled in adult education programs for the academic year 2011-12. He

noted there was an average cost of approximately \$1,500 per student for adult education programs and there are thousands who are in need of services. P. Less reviewed the chart which portrays the GWB JDF, General Revenue, DHS TANF and WIA AEFLA funding from 2010 through 2013. He noted the reduction in general revenue of approximately \$300,000 from FY13 indicating the impact of this reduction would be to serve 200 less students. P. Less thanked the committee for their continuing support and funding provided to serve adult education programs.

With no further discussion, Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the funding request for the FY13 Adult Education programs in the amount of \$3.5M.

VOTE: C. Howes moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed. Mario Bueno recused himself from the vote since his organization receives a RIDE Adult Education grant

Adult Education State Plan Extension

Chair McGowan asked P. Less to provide an overview of the Adult Education State Plan. P. Less explained that RIDE is submitting its revisions to the adult education plan which includes performance targets. He noted the sections of the plan relating to needs assessment, annual evaluation and performance measures. He reviewed the handout entitled "Rhode Island Adult Education Proposed Performance Targets" which compared the national averages of the performance measures to 2010-11, 2011-12 and the proposed 2012-13 targets. He noted that the proposed 2012 -13 targets are equal to or exceed the national average with the exception of Retained Employment. P. Less reported that beginning in FY2012 funding amounts are determined using the Rhode Island Adult Education Performance Based Funding Formula.

P. Less addressed a question raised about receiving information on the ranking of the agencies' performance. He indicated that he has received negative feedback about making this information public so it is not the intention to do so.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the extension of the Adult Education State Plan.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by C. Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Workforce Investment Notices: 11-13, 11-14

Chair McGowan asked Paul Genovesi of the State Workforce Investment Office to review Workforce Investment Notices 11-13 and 11-14.

P. Genovesi noted that the purpose of WIN 11-13 is to provide Locals with allocations for PY 2011 (FY2012) Youth Center Services from the Job Development Fund (JDF) to be evenly distributed among all Youth Centers.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve WIN 11-13.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by C. Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed

P. Genovesi noted that the purpose of WIN 11-14 is to provide guidance on ETA plans to adjust the FY12 portion of PY11 allocations for Adult and Dislocated Workers regarding the .189 percent rescission.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve WIN 11-14.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by C. Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed.

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

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by C. Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney