

**Governor's Workforce Board RI**  
**Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting**  
**June 5, 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, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney  
DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Laura Hart, Paul Genovesi, Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Denise Paquet, Mavis McGetrick, Bob Garofano, Lisa D'Agostino, Chris Grieco  
Others Present: Steve Kitchin, NEIT; Tom Costello, CCRI; Judy Jones, Economic Progress Institute; Philip Less, RIDE; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Robert Ricci, Jim Glover, Tony Lucca of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston

**Call to Order**

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the April 3, 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.

**Updates: GWB Jobs Initiatives, Industry Partnerships, Biennial Plan, Strategic Plan**

Chair McGowan asked Rick Brooks to provide updates on the GWB Jobs Initiatives, Industry Partnerships, Biennial and Strategic plans.

R. Brooks reported that the Industry Partners have completed the first of a 3 year commitment and that they are in the process of submitting renewal applications addressing the priorities of the upcoming year. He mentioned the release of the RFP for a Manufacturing Industry Partnership noting that the deadline for proposals has been extended to June 22, 2012.

R. Brooks reported that the first meeting of GWB Biennial Plan Advisory Group was held yesterday and noted that the submission date for the Biennial Employment and Training Plan to the Governor and General Assembly is September 30, 2012. He mentioned that the RI Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) is providing support to this advisory group.

R. Brooks reported on the FY2012 GWB Jobs Initiative programs. He indicated that Stepping Up is assisting 10 unemployed Rhode Islanders with health information training; the Hospitality Association is placing graduates of the START program into internships; the Tech Collective is offering college post employment training and a post graduate fellowship program to graduating college seniors; and Electric Boat is providing internship positions to older youth through the Youth Centers. He reported that up to \$1M has been approved for FY13 GWB Jobs Initiatives and that input will be sought from the board and from targeted focus groups to develop strategies.

R. Brooks reported on the recent press conference which highlighted both the funding provided by the GWB (\$1M) and DHS (\$1M) for summer youth employment programs. He noted that the DHS funding would be provided to those youth eligible for TANF funding.

### **Approval of FY 13 Incumbent Worker Training Grants**

Chair McGowan asked Nancy Olson to report on the FY13 Incumbent Worker Training Grants. (IWTG). Executive Legal Counsel, Sean Fontes asked for any disclosures posing a conflict of interest with the grant awards. Committee members were allotted time to review the approved funding list for the grants. No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

N. Olson reported that the board approved \$1.2M in funding for the Incumbent Worker Training Grants and that \$100,000 was set aside as an incentive for youth summer and/or year round internships. N. Olson explained the bonus funding which was awarded to those organizations interested in working with youth and which were approved for an IWTG. She reported that 43 new companies applied for a grant and that 23 of those were funded. She stated that 16 additional companies scored above 80 but are not approved due to lack of funding. They will be placed on a waiting list should additional funding become available. N. Olson stated that the organizations receiving grant awards are being reviewed for any tax, workforce regulation, safety and/or worker's compensation issues. She explained that any findings will be stated in a special notice to the organization which will be presented to them at the Grant Implementation meeting. The organization will have 30 days to rectify any problems.

N. Olson referred to the handout for the "Youth Proposals Recommended for Funding" and explained the process and results of the bonus funding incentive. She noted that the youth are referred to these summer and year round opportunities by the Youth Centers and that Anne Walsh of the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and Carlos Ribeiro of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island will oversee these programs. She noted this bonus funding incentive has raised awareness and provided an opportunity for employers to hire youth. This funding component will be evaluated as it progresses.

Chair McGowan acknowledged the work of the volunteer readers and raters for the grants and C. Howes asked that a letter of thanks be sent to each volunteer.

With no further discussion, Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the FY13 Incumbent Worker Training Grants as presented.

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

### **Workforce Investment Notices: 11-15, 11-16**

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to present Workforce Investment Notices 11-15 and 11-16. D. Tremblay reviewed and explained the WINs.

WIN 11-15: To provide information on Selective Service registration requirements for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) -funded services established by the WIA, and to clarify that only programs or services funded or authorized by Title I of WIA, not those funded or authorized by the Wagner-Peyser Act, must comply with the Selective Service registration requirements.

WIN 11-16: To transmit the 2012 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) and Self-Sufficiency Guidelines. The LLSIL guidelines below are used to determine eligibility based on

family income for youth and for “priority of service’ adults. The Self-Sufficiency Guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on a lack of a self-sufficient wage for employed individuals.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve WINs 11-15 and 11-16.

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

### **WIA funding formula Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Area**

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to present information on the WIA funding formula waiver request from the Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Area. D. Tremblay referred to the letter addressed to Chair Howes from the Chair of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston on a resolution that was passed that requests that the GWB adopt an alternative formula for the sub state allocation of the Workforce Investment Act - Adult and Youth funds. He provided an overview of the resolution, WIA funding and the annual appropriations to the Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. He noted the funds are allocated by the USDOL according to a three part formula and spoke about the formula currently in use vs. the alternative formula. D. Tremblay referred to the handout which showed Rhode Island's annual WIA allocation percentages (traditional formula) from program year 2000 to 2010. He reviewed the projections of the difference in sub-state allocations using both the traditional vs. the alternative formula from 2012 through 2016. When asked about the implementation of an alternative formula, it was mentioned that this could be implemented as early as July 1, 2012. This timetable was a concern for the committee members. It was suggested that time be allotted to plan appropriately for any change in funding formula.

Chair McGowan asked Bob Ricci, Administrator of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC) to provide his perspective on the alternative funding formula request. B. Ricci explained the resulting implications of not moving to an alternative formula noting it could create a financial crisis for the Providence/Cranston WIB. He stated that utilizing an alternative formula would put a stop to the downward slide on the funding percentages and indicated it would not have a major impact on the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI). He mentioned the closing of the Pawtucket netWORKri One Stop Center which would prompt job seekers and workers to utilize the Once Stop Center in Providence. He indicated the alternative formula would be a short term solution for a seriously underfunded workforce system. He suggested that the work on the unified plan to identify training funds across the state might prove to be helpful in leveraging money so the LWIBs can function optimally.

George Nee commented that this may be the time to go back to a single state workforce investment board as was discussed in 1982 when it emerged as an issue. He suggested the possibility of adopting systemic change in the coordination of the workforce development system and to ask what could be done through USDOL. He proposed that the concept of one state coordinated system be examined going forward.

When questioned about reducing administrative costs for WSPC, R. Ricci stated that currently there are five less FTEs, that ARRA staff are gone and that they consistently meet performance standards. He stated that the youth center system was originally piloted with the Providence Youth Center. He noted that receiving a TANF grant from DHS is a first time occurrence. He also noted they have applied for a grant to assist older workers.

Chair McGowan asked Steve Kitchin, Chair of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island (WPGRI) Board, to provide his perspective on the funding formula issue. S. Kitchin noted it is a matter of timing and that the board is looking for direction from the Governor but has not

received any guidance to date. He mentioned that the WPGRI board has already made difficult decisions and adjustments and noted the layoff of staff last summer. He indicated he needs time to digest the information and empirical data presented by Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. He stated that the July 1<sup>st</sup> date for implementation of an alternative formula is not fair or workable. He noted an upcoming transition of leadership with the retirement of the WPGRI Executive Director. He stated he would like the opportunity to review the data and prepare information for the Chair. Chair McGowan asked if he would work with David Tremblay as a liaison between both boards to work on this funding formula issue.

George Nee suggested that DLT Legal Counsel research if there are any obstacles with USDOL to achieve a one state system. He felt that due to the economic situation with the state, that this is the time to revisit this issue.

Connie Howes mentioned the importance of working together if changes are recommended on the funding formula as well as the rationale for this change. She stated the bigger goal which is to support the workforce development system.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney