

Governor's Workforce Board
Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting
June 12, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Constance Howes, Brandon Melton, Mario Bueno, Martin Trueb
Committee Members absent: George Nee, Mike Grey
GWB Board members present: Robin Coia
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, Mavis McGetrick, Nancy Olson, Sue Chomka
Others Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Irene Nedeljkovic, Economic Progress Institute; Robert Ricci, Mark Perrotti, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Paul Harden, RIEDC;

Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She provided an overview of the agenda.

Minutes

Chair Howes asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the April 3, 2013 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting. She asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

Biennial Plan Report Card/Data Collection

Chair Howes asked Elizabeth Jardine to provide information on the Biennial Plan Report Card. E. Jardine referred to the hand-out provided and noted there are 10 measures currently noted on the report card form which are listed for each of the biennial plan priorities. These priorities include employer partnerships, work readiness, career pathways, the public workforce system and the unemployment rate. E. Jardine briefly reviewed the priorities and the targets. Martin Trueb commented that 10 measures are too many and suggested there be less. C. Howes agreed and suggested adding a column of measures and listing the target under each one. There was a discussion about the targets and several comments and suggestions were made.

Review and Approval of Local Workforce Board Plans

Chair Howes asked Mavis McGetrick of the State Workforce Investment Office to review the information contained in the Local Workforce Investment Board plans. M. McGetrick provided information on the process pertaining to the local plans for the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. She referred to the executive summaries and provided a brief overview of each. She stated that committee members were provided with the links to the websites to review the full plans.

With no further discussion, Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the Local Workforce Board plans as presented.

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

Workforce Investment Notice 12-07

Chair Howes asked Mavis McGetrick to review Workforce Investment Notice 12-07. M. McGetrick explained that WIN 12-07 transmits the 2013 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) and Self-Sufficiency Guidelines. She noted these guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on family income for youth and for "priority of service" adults. She further noted that the Self-Sufficiency Guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on a lack of a self-sufficient wage for employed individuals.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve WIN 12-07.

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

Updates on GWB Investments

Chair Howes reported that several updates would be provided on GWB Investments.

Innovative Partnership Grants

Chair Howes asked Elizabeth Jardine to provide the first report on the Innovative Partnership Grants. E. Jardine referred to a hand-out of the grants updated in June and stated that she has met with each of the grant partners. She commented that she has been in negotiations for both funding and activity items with each agency. R. Brooks noted that there will be a media focus on the innovative partnership grants to highlight the projects over a 12-15 month period. E. Jardine shared a hand-out that details the reporting format to be used for each grant.

Industry Partners

Chair Howes asked Sherri Carello to provide an update on the Industry Partnerships. S. Carello reported that the Industry Partners are in the midst of a contract renewal process. She noted that the GWB is in the process of revamping the Request for Proposals (RFP) and reviewing the application process. The revisions may include requiring an employer engagement piece as well as incorporating career pathways and system integration into the proposals. S. Carello indicated that the applications were due in one week and that \$1.2M is allocated for the next fiscal year. She explained that the RFP calls for a separate application for the training portion of the proposal and that not every Industry Partner will have a training component. She noted that \$220,000 is allocated for training. Rick Brooks explained that due to the state's competitive process, the funding cycle for the Industry Partnership Program is for a three year period. He indicated there will be an opportunity for the board to review the Industry Partnership structure next June when the current contract period ends. R. Brooks stated that they may engage an outside evaluator for a review and that the intention is to utilize Labor Market Information for guidance on high growth industry trends.

Jobs Initiatives

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the GWB Jobs Initiatives. R. Brooks spoke about the progress of this initiative begun at the end of FY12 as a pilot project funded in the amount of \$250,000. He stated that in the current fiscal year, funding in the amount of \$1M was allocated for an expansion of the pilot program. R. Brooks reviewed the contracts for Electric Boat/Senedia, Tunstall/AMAC, Tech Collective, and Building Futures. He mentioned that an allocation of \$400,000 was contracted in FY13 to the Local Workforce Investments Boards for hiring subsidies for graduates of WIA-funded training. He noted that as of yet, no funds have been dispersed and that it is likely some of the funds may be de-obligated. He indicated GWB staff would be meeting with the local WIBS about the possibility of utilizing FY14 funds for a more viable initiative through the local WIBS.

Annual Incumbent Worker Training Grants

Chair Howes asked Dan Brown to present the information on the annual Incumbent Worker Training Grants (IWTG). Due to time constraints, D. Brown mentioned the hand-out which

provided a summary sheet of the IWTG from 2008-2012. He referred to the spreadsheet which detailed the grant proposals recommended for funding.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the FY14 Incumbent Worker Training Grant Proposals recommended for funding in the amount of \$809,745. She asked if there were any recusals from the vote. There were none.

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

Again, due to time constraints Sherri Carello provided a brief overview of the Express Grants for the months of May and June and of the Express Grant Review Process.

Chair asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney