

**Governor's Workforce Board  
Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting  
March 13, 2014**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Grey, Chair, Constance Howes, George Nee, Mario Bueno, Martin Trueb  
**Committee Members Absent:** Cheryl Merchant  
**GWB Board Members Present:** Charles Fogarty, Robin Coia  
**GWB Staff Present:** Rick Brooks, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Hillary Feeney  
**DLT Staff Present:** Paul Genovesi, Diane Gagne, Sue Chomka, Nancy Olson, Sean Fontes  
**Others Present:** Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Irena Nedeljkovic, EPI, Todd Poole, Darlene Wynne, 4ward Planning  
**Location:** Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

**Call to Order**

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

Chair Grey asked for a review of the February 13, 2014 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

**Workforce Investment Notices (WIN):**

Chair Grey asked Paul Genovesi to provide an overview of the WIN notices.

*13-03: Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Performance Reporting System*

P. Genovesi reported the purpose of WIN 13-03 is for the U.S. Department of Labor to notify the Workforce System of the recent changes to the data reporting requirements for WIA funds. The changes to the data management system (EmployRI) will improve the quality of data collected and will better measure and analyze the outcomes for participants served with WIA funds. The committee discussed the new data elements and existing reporting requirements.

*13-04: Dislocated Worker Training National Emergency Grant Policies*

P. Genovesi gave background information on the National Emergency Grant, which provides employment related services for dislocated workers, and noted the purpose of WIN 13-04 is to notify Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) of the policies of the grant. The committee discussed the type of training funded by the grant. P. Genovesi noted that the program has started and the training began in January 2014 and will conclude June 30, 2015.

Per Chair Grey's request, Sean Fontes asked for a declaration on any of the voting matters before the committee for conflicts of interest. He explained that committee members who disclose a conflict, in accordance with the RI State Code of Ethics and Governor's Workforce Board By-Laws, should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion of the voting matters.

Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve WIN Notices 13-03 and 13-04.

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

### **Financial Update**

Chair Grey asked Diane Gagne to provide a financial update on GWB investments. D. Gagne referred to the financial analysis worksheet and discussed the updates to the total Board allocations for FY14. She noted the reallocations previously voted on, totaling \$2.3 million, were incorporated into the spreadsheet. D. Gagne highlighted the FY14 expenditures and reviewed the specific external contracts that saw an increase in expenditures since the last report.

### **Incumbent Worker Training Grant Recommendations**

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to discuss the second round of FY14 Incumbent Worker Training Grants. R. Brooks referred to the summary handout and discussed the highlights of the proposals submitted. He reviewed the spreadsheet of funding recommendations, noting the demand for funding exceeded the \$700,000 allocated for the second round of grants. R. Brooks proposed allocating an additional \$800,000 of FY15 funds to fund a total of 68 companies. He indicated the three companies highlighted in yellow received scores above 70, but funds are not available to support those proposals. The committee discussed the option of funding the additional three companies with deobligated funds that could become available at a later time. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the following FY14 – Round 2 Incumbent Worker Training Grant funding recommendations below. C. Howes noted her affiliation with DiSanto, Priest, Inc. and abstained from the vote pertaining to that specific company.

1. Use FY14 IWTG reallocations to fund the top 34 applicants, totaling \$667,761, to begin April 1, 2014.
2. Use FY15 IWTG allocations to fund the next 34 applicants, totaling \$836,143, to begin July 1, 2014.
3. Fund additional three applicants, totaling \$82,700, subject to the availability of deobligated funds.

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

### **FY15 Investment Categories**

Chair Grey asked R. Brooks to discuss the FY15 investment categories. R. Brooks referred to the financial analysis worksheet, noting some of the categories have not been voted on yet. The committee discussed the FY15 allocations for the external contracts. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the following FY15 investment categories:

Incumbent Worker Training	\$800,000
Express Grants	\$250,000
Export Assistance	\$60,000
Capacity Building	\$100,000
Youth Strategies	\$1,500,000
Industry Partnership Grants	\$1,600,000
Jobs Initiative	\$750,000
Innovative Partnership Grants	\$1,200,000
RIDE	\$3,500,000

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

### **Industry Partnership Evaluation**

Chair Grey asked R. Brooks to discuss the Industry Partnership Evaluation. R. Brooks gave an overview of the Industry Partners and introduced Todd Poole and Darlene Wynne of 4ward Planning to give a presentation on the report findings. T. Poole and D. Wynne discussed their involvement with the RhodeMap RI process, goals of the evaluation, key takeaways, and recommendations to modify the Industry Partnership Program.

**Adjournment**

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

**VOTE:** M. Bueno motioned to approve, seconded by M. Grey. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts