

**Governor's Workforce Board
Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting
June 3, 2014**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Mike Grey, Chair, George Nee, Mario Bueno, Cheryl Merchant, Martin Trueb
Committee Members Absent: Constance Howes
GWB Board Members Present: Charles Fogarty
GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Hillary Feeney, Amelia Roberts
DLT Staff Present: Paul Genovesi, Mavis McGetrick, Connie Parks, Diane Gagne, Sean Fontes
Others Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; JoAnn Johnson, Tech Collective; Sharon Geoffrey, WPGRI
Location: Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair Grey asked for a review of the April 3, 2014 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

VOTE: Cheryl Merchant moved to approve, seconded by Martin Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Innovative Partnership Grant Recommendations

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide an overview of the Innovative Partnership Grant funding recommendations. R. Brooks referred to the proposal submission spreadsheet and discussed the number of participants to be served, amount requested, sector, employer partners, and program summary of each applicant. He indicated, through a combination of deobligations and prioritization, \$1.75 million has been allocated to fund a second round of Innovative Partnership Grants. R. Brooks discussed the requirements of the grant: an employer partner, education and training partner, work readiness, experiential learning activity, and must serve unemployed, underemployed, or youth.

He noted 25 proposals were submitted; two of those were received after the submission deadline and were not considered for funding. R. Brooks discussed the review and scoring process, highlighting the bonus point component for existing grantees. He noted, of the nine eligible current grant recipients, eight have been recommended for funding, and five new proposals could possibly be funded. He stated 12 proposals could be fully funded for a total of \$1,673,506 and if the committee wanted to fund the next proposal on the list (SER Jobs for Progress, Inc.); the total amount needed to fully fund 13 proposals would be \$1,824,179. He indicated SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. is proposing a CNA training program, which would make it the third CNA program funded along with Saint Antoine Residence and Rhode Island Hospital. Chair Grey suggested partially funding the next proposal on the list, RI Manufacturers Association. Chair Grey discussed the sector variation, highlighting the consistency with

addressing the Board's desire and focus to support the manufacturing community in Rhode Island. G. Nee inquired about connecting SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. with the other two CNA programs and expressed his support for the recommendation to fund the RI Manufacturers Association CNC Machinist Program. C. Merchant commented on the increased need for CNC Machinists in Rhode Island. It was determined that \$95,289 would need to be cut from the RIMA proposal to remain within the \$1.75 allocated for the program. The committee weighed the options of partially funding the RI Manufacturers Association proposal or cutting each proposal by a set percentage.

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

Chair Grey put forth a motion to approve the FY2015 Innovative Partnership funding recommendations, with the exception of Year Up, subject to the following provisions:

1. Fund RI Manufacturers Association in place of SER Jobs for Progress, Inc.
2. Apply a pro-rata percentage adjustment to funded applicants, as not to exceed the total allocation of \$1.75 million.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Cheryl Merchant. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grey put forth a motion to approve the Year Up FY2015 Innovative Partnership Proposal, subject to the pro-rata adjustment previously stated. George Nee and Martin Trueb abstained from the vote.

VOTE: Mario Bueno moved to approve, seconded by Cheryl Merchant. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

Chair Grey asked Diane Gagne to provide a financial update of Governor Workforce Board allocations and expenditures for FY2014 and FY2015. D. Gagne referred to the Financial Analysis spreadsheet and presented the available funds, budgeted expenditures, external contracts, and allocations for FY2014 and FY2015. She highlighted the Board allocated and contractually obligated funds for individual Board priorities totaling \$11,317,321. G. Nee inquired about the FY15 Innovative Partnership allocation. D. Gagne noted the FY14 balance of unobligated/deobligated funds (\$547,046) in addition to the \$1.2 million allocated for FY15 brings the total to \$1.75 million for FY15 Innovative Partnership Grants. She indicated the Jobs Initiative line item has been over-obligated for FY14 and discussed the options to cover the remaining balance, such as anticipated deobligations and shifting allocations from FY15 funds. She noted a crude expenditure report with the anticipated carry-over for FY15 will be presented to the committee once the final FY14 expenditures have been received.

Workforce Investment Notices 13-03 – 13-09

Chair Grey asked Mavis McGetrick and Paul Genovesi to discuss Workforce Investment Notices 13-03, 13-04, 13-05, 13-06, 13-07, 13-08, and 13-09.

Workforce Investment Notice 13-03

Mavis McGetrick discussed the 2014 Lowe Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) and Self-Sufficiency Guidelines that are used to determine eligibility based on family income for youth and for “priority of service” adults. She noted the Self-Sufficiency guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on a lack of self-sufficient wage for employed individuals.

Workforce Investment Notice 13-04 and 13-05

Paul Genovesi discussed Workforce Investment Notices 13-04 and 13-05 which describe the allocation percentages for Dislocated Worker, Adult, and Youth Programs for PY 2014. He noted the most significant change was the State Set-Aside percentage increase from 5% to 8.75%.

Workforce Investment Notice 13-06 and 13-07

Paul Genovesi indicated Workforce Investment Notices 13-06 and 13-07 report the specific allocations for Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Adult Programs for PY 2014. He noted the total allocations for PY 2014 were similar to PY 2013, a little less than \$12 million.

Workforce Investment Notice 13-08

Mavis McGetrick noted Workforce Investment Notice 13-08 addresses modifications to the WIA Performance System and resulting changes to EmployRI. In reference to a question raised at a previous committee meeting, M. McGetrick stated 196 data elements are reported on.

Workforce Investment Notice 13-09

Mavis McGetrick stated Workforce Investment Notice 13-09 provides information and additional guidance to Local Workforce Investment Areas regarding Dislocated Worker Training National Emergency Grant policies.

Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve Workforce Investment Notices 13-03, 13-04, 13-05, 13-06, 13-07, 13-08, and 13-09.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Martin Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Agricultural Outreach Plan

Chair Grey asked Mavis McGetrick discuss the Agricultural Outreach Plan. M. McGetrick referred to the plan summary and reported the goal of the plan is to ensure Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW’s) receive the same quality and quantity of services through the netWORKri career centers, proportionate to the services provided to other jobseekers. Connie Parks provided additional information on MSFW’s, noting migrant workers are U.S. citizens, traveling from site to site where crops are growing. She reported Rhode Island does not export farm products and has been developing an internal system where most of the products are sold at local farm stands. She reported the Plan primarily focuses on ensuring proper living and working conditions of the workers. C. Merchant inquired about the quick turnaround to provide services for workers who frequently travel. C. Parks reported that Rhode Island does not have the volume of migrant workers that other states have. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the Agricultural Outreach Plan.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Cheryl Merchant. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide an update of the Governor's Workforce Board Programs. R. Brooks referred to the program updates handout and discussed key figures such as employer partners, individuals served, diplomas and GEDs, work readiness training, etc. for GWB funded programs through March 31, 2014. He reported the Industry Partnership proposals are due next week and the funding recommendations will be presented at the July 10th Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee meeting.

UEP/Biennial Plan Updates

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide a progress report of the UEP and Biennial Plan. R. Brooks discussed the progress of both reports, noting a Biennial Plan Advisory Group meeting was held last week consisting of public and private sector partners to assist in the development of the plan. R. Brooks stated a RFP will be posted shortly to hire a consultant to facilitate the process and help write the Plan. He reported the UEP and Biennial Plan are due on November 15, 2014 and this fall the Board will be involved in vetting the recommendations, data, and approving the final Biennial Plan.

Adjournment

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

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Mario Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts