



**Governor's Workforce Board  
Strategic Investments and Evaluation  
Committee**

**August 7, 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, Channavy Chhay  
**GWB Staff Present:** Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Hillary Feeney, Amelia Roberts, Dan Brown  
**DLT Staff Present:** Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, Sue Chomka, Mike Healey, David Tremblay, Lisa D'Agostino  
**Others Present:** Paul Harden, Commerce RI; Linda Katz, EPI  
**Location:** Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

**Call to Order**

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

Chair Grey asked for a review of the July 10, 2014 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

**Industry Partnership Wild Card Grant**

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to review the funding recommendations for the FY15 Industry Partnership "Wildcard" Sector. S. Carello discussed the reader review process, highlighting the strengths, concerns, and recommendations from the readers for each applicant. She noted Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA) scored an 80.20 and was the only applicant to score above the minimum funding threshold of 70. S. Carello noted one of the proposals was non-responsive and was not included in the review process. She added some of the readers felt the scoring rubric was geared more toward existing Industry Partners.

R. Brooks referred to the reader feedback and recommendations handout and discussed the strengths, concerns, and funding recommendations for the three FY15 Industry Partnership Wildcard proposals. C. Howes asked Rick Brooks to describe what composites are. R. Brooks noted that the Composites industry is looking to branch out from Marine Trades and many automotive supplies, sporting equipment, and wind turbines are made from the petroleum-based material. He noted Composites did have an advantage in the scoring process because their lead applicant has had prior experience responding to the activities in the RFP. He also raised the concern of Composites as a separate industry or whether it falls under the Marine Trades industry. R. Brooks stated the Design sector is an emerging sector that is currently supported by RI Foundation's Make It Happen initiative. He noted the proposal had lots of energy and vision but the major concern was the lack of partner MOUs. Lastly, he discussed the Environmental

Sector, noting the proposal from the RI Society of Environmental Professionals had diverse partners from higher education, community based organizations, and municipality but a concern was raised that the Environmental sector had been funded in the past and the proposal was lacking in employer partners.

R. Brooks indicated the recommendation from the readers was to renegotiate the RIMTA contract for a maximum of \$75,000 and to award the other two proposals \$25,000 for a six-month planning grant. G. Nee was opposed to the planning grants and noted the total funding for all three proposals would exceed the initial allocation set aside for the Wildcard sector. M. Trueb also opposed funding the planning grants and noted that composites are integrated within several industries and would be a great opportunity for the state to support employment in an emerging sector. C. Howes asked if Commerce RI has any programs that can help Composites develop as an independent sector. P. Harden described examples of sector development in different areas such as energy-related production and transportation. M. Bueno asked how many people are currently employed in the Composites sector. The committee asked for all of the applicants to present their proposal at the next Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee meeting and provide them with the feedback from the readers. Chair Grey asked for a motion to table the vote to the September 2, 2014 committee meeting.

**VOTE:** Constance Howes moved to approve, seconded by Martin Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Overview of amended GWB statute**

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to review the amendments to the GWB statute. R. Brooks referred to the overview handout and discussed the revisions and provided clarification on the major changes to the legislation. He noted the structural changes, including the addition of the chairs of the local Workforce Investment Boards and Secretary of Commerce as members of the GWB. R. Brooks added the statute renames the "Human Resources Investment Council" to "Governor's Workforce Board RI" and removes the distinction between SWIB and HRIC members. He further discussed the Governor's Workforce Board's redefined role in planning, coordinating, evaluating, and funding statewide workforce development activities. R. Brooks addressed the changes in the Work Immersion Program, Career Pathways, and additional requirement of the Board to produce a comprehensive improvement plan to identify roles, responsibilities, recommendations, and barriers in the delivery of workforce services in Rhode Island.

### **Career Pathways Advisory Committee**

Chair Grey asked Hillary Feeney to provide an overview of the Career Pathway Advisory Committee (CPAC). H. Feeney referred to the CPAC summary handout and discussed the background of the Career Pathways System Taskforce (CPSTF), transition from the CPSTF to the Advisory Committee, and changes involved in the transition. M. Bueno inquired about the formal process of engaging members so they feel committed to the goals and focus of the CPAC. H. Feeney described the groups invited to attend, including employers, adult education, former CPSTF members, higher education, Community Based Organizations, Industry Partners, GWB Board members, and representatives from Labor and the Public Workforce System. The committee discussed the transience and fluidity of the CPAC and ways to encourage continued interest and participation. R. Brooks noted the core members of a smaller working group that currently meets will provide additional structure to the CPAC. C. Howes suggested assigning a Chair to the CPAC to report on the activities of the Committee to the larger Board. R. Brooks noted Monica Dzialo from the Office of Rehabilitative Services has agreed to participate and may be interested in serving in the role as Chair of the CPAC.

### **Overview of new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

Chair Grey asked David Tremblay to provide an overview of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). D. Tremblay referred to the WIOA summary handout and highlighted the background and key changes to the new Act. He noted the new Act was enacted in July 2014 and replaces the WIA of 1998. D. Tremblay presented the highlights of the WIOA reforms to Rhode Island's Public Workforce System including the elimination of Workforce Investment Notices and reinstatement of the 15% set-aside. He added WIOA establishes new common measures that are well-defined and have the potential for comparative analysis among agencies that support workforce development. The committee further discussed the alignment of WIOA and GWB reporting requirements.

### **Biennial Plan Update**

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the Biennial Training and Employment Plan. R. Brooks referred to the Project Work Plan noting the consultant procured to develop the Plan, Thomas P. Miller & Associates, has had prior experience in creating state and workforce development plans. He discussed the projected timeline, including an online survey to be distributed to Rhode Island businesses as a source of direction to identify employer needs and perspectives on workforce challenges. R. Brooks noted the consultants will be presenting at the next Biennial Plan Advisory Committee meeting on August 28, 2014 and business and workforce professional focus groups will convene to analyze data, and help develop initial concepts to be presented at the Board Retreat on October 16, 2014.

### **Adjournment**

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

**VOTE:** Martin Trueb moved to approve, seconded by Constance Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts