



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

**September 2, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Grey, Chair, Constance Howes, George Nee, Mario Bueno, Channavy Chhay  
**Committee Members Absent:** Cheryl Merchant, Martin Trueb  
**GWB Board Members Present:** Robin Coia  
**GWB Staff Present:** Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Hillary Feeney, Amelia Roberts  
**DLT Staff Present:** Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Lisa D'Agostino  
**Others Present:** Cheryl Dacosta, Tech Collective; Paul Harden, Commerce RI; Daniel Lanier, RIEWI; Joe Palumbo, American Ecotech; Amelia Rose, Groundwork Providence; Wendy Mackie, RIMTA; Chase Hogoboom, Goetz Composites; Lisa Carnevale, MYRANDA Group  
**Location:** Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

### **Call to Order**

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Minutes**

Chair Grey asked for a review of the August 7, 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.

### **Financial Update**

Chair Grey asked Diane Gagne to provide a financial update. Referring to the financial analysis spreadsheet, D. Gagne noted of the \$4,875,272 carry-in from FY14, \$3.6 million is obligated by contract. She discussed the total funding available for operations and grants for FY 15 (\$17,625,755), total program availability (\$16,641,638), and external contract expenditures (\$15,223,469), leaving \$1,418,169 in unobligated funds to be allocated by the Board. Rick Brooks noted a discussion on the investment of the additional funds (primarily from the elimination of the Indirect Cost Recovery) will be on the agenda for the Board Retreat on October 16, 2014. He added the FY15 Incumbent Worker Training funds have been fully obligated and discussed the specific external contract line items in detail. C. Howes inquired about the Export Assistance budget in comparison to the prior three fiscal years. R. Brooks agreed the amount presented seems a little too high. D. Gagne stated it will be adjusted to reflect the correct budget (\$59,598) for FY15. R. Brooks noted the Jobs Initiatives budget is smaller than previous years due to the over-obligation that occurred in FY14. He discussed the status of Tunstall, noting they are currently using Work Immersion funds for additional wage subsidies. R. Brooks highlighted the status of the Open Doors Innovative Partnership and

discussed the obstacles they face serving a challenging population. Mike Grey asked to have Open Doors provide an update at the November or December Strategic Investments and Evaluation Meeting. He also R. Brooks provided further updates on Work Immersion General Revenue funds and the reassignment of DHS TANF funds for the Summer Youth Program.

### **Industry Partnership Wild Card Presentations**

Chair Grey asked Sean Fontes, Executive Counsel, to discuss the declaration of any conflicts of interest pertaining to the voting matter. S. Fontes 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.

S. Fontes indicated the committee should take a vote to un-table the matter. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to un-table the FY15 Industry Partnership Wild Card discussion and vote.

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

### *Design*

Chair Grey asked Lisa Carnevale from the MYRANDA Group to further discuss the DesignxRI FY15 Industry Partnership wild card proposal. L. Carnevale provided background information on DesignxRI and presented the different silos that exist within the Design industry. She highlighted the key points of the industry in Rhode Island, noting the state has the second most industrial designers per capita and about 2,000 designers. L. Carnevale noted, currently, a comprehensive design study specific to Rhode Island does not exist. She stated there are several established design associations, but integration is lacking in the industry. L. Carnevale highlighted the DesignxRI partnerships, the employer workforce profile, and needs and opportunities of the Design sector. Constance Howes noted the similarity between the IT and Design sector as industries that both exist within other sectors. G. Nee expressed his concern with providing work readiness training to individuals who have graduated college.

### *Environmental*

Chair Grey asked Daniel Lanier from the Rhode Island Environmental Workforce Initiative to further discuss the RISEP FY15 Industry Partnership wild card proposal. D. Lanier highlighted how the RIEWI will succeed as a vehicle for Industry Partnerships where the past "Green" Industry Partnership has not and how the "Green" workforce labor market support investment in the sector. He addressed the concern in the lack of employer partnerships and discussed the ways that identify the environmental sector and its function as an industry sector. Constance Howes expressed the importance of establishing state policy to align with the sector and asked if Commerce RI has had any focus on the environmental industry.

### *Composites*

Chair Grey asked Wendy Mackie from Rhode Island Marine Trades Association to further discuss the Rhode Island Composites Alliance FY15 Industry Partnership wild card proposal. W. Mackie provided background information on the Alliance and discussed the stakeholders and participants, industry growth support, 2014 employer survey, and how to create a competitive state business environment to attract additional businesses. She noted the disconnect in the pipeline and difficulty in developing a sustainable workforce. Constance Howes noted the positive impact of Commerce RI's involvement in the Composites sector.

Following the presentations, G. Nee expressed his concern with voting on the matter. Chair Grey agreed with G. Nee's concern requested further information and discussion on each of the industries. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to table the FY15 Industry Partnership wild card sector funding vote.

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

**Adjournment**

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts