



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

January 8, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

Today's Vision... Tomorrow's Opportunity.

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Grey, Chair, Constance Howes, George Nee, Mario Bueno, Channavy Chhay, Cheryl Merchant, Martin Trueb  
**GWB Board Members Present:** Scott Jensen  
**GWB Staff Present:** Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Robert Kalaskowski, Dan Brown  
**DLT Staff Present:** Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Lisa D'Agostino, Sue Chomka, Mavis McGetrick, Nancy Olson, Carlos Ribiero, Cheryl Dacosta, Tech Collective; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Anne Walsh, WSPC  
**Others Present:**  
**Location:** Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

### Call to Order

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Minutes

Chair Grey asked for a review of the December 2, 2014 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

### Financial Update

Chair Grey asked Diane Gagne to provide the committee with a financial update. Diane Gagne noted the Governor's Workforce Board has revenues of \$11.4 million left for program operations for the remainder of FY15. The GWB has allocated \$3.5 million to RIDE for Adult Education. Diane noted that the remaining \$7.9 million is what the GWB has for program operations. Diane Gagne also noted that the GWB receive bills for 3 centralized services DOIT, Human Resources, & Facility management. Martin Traub asked regarding a jump in operation cost? Diane Gagne noted the amount shown represent the GWB allocated share of these expenses. George Nee asked, what is the total DLT-related cost? Diane Gagne stated the 3 line items are GWB operation, Cops, DOA centralization.

### Discussion of FY15 and FY 16 JDF investments

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide an overview of the FY15 and FY 16 investments. To date \$1.3 million has not yet been allocated. These funds are available due the elimination of the indirect cost recovery charge. Sherri Carello, GWB Coordinator of employment & training programs, is doing a survey to see how the GWB Work Immersion Program has worked. The board would like to see a follow up analysis done of these programs. Chair Constance Howes asked, what is the annual cost of this Program to date since July 1, 2014 until now? Sherri Carello noted that the cost to date is \$236,786. Director Scott Jensen asked, how many companies have gone through the GWB Work Immersion Program? Sherri Carello will provide Director Jensen with a copy of the worksheet. Rick Brooks noted \$1.5 million was allocated for summer youth. There was no TANF dollars for summer youth this year. The GWB has implemented new youth strategies for Career and Tech students – there will be opportunity for discussion on this matter at a later date. George Nee noted the board should put some dollars aside to help for pay the cost of the GED test, due to the increase cost. Constance Howes stated when the Board look at the distribution of funds, current employer still gets a substantial amount, and that it's very well balanced. George Nee noted that the GWB needs to make it clear to business in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for

the Incumbent Worker Training Grant, that these are matching funds. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve funds for the next round of IWTG program.

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

### **Industry Partnership Training Funds**

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to provide the committee with an update. Sherri noted for FY15 the Governor's Workforce Board currently awarded 6 Industry Partners with pre-employment training grants. Some highlights from the training proposals: Manufacturing Industry Partner will be taking on a new program with High school students, RI Hospitality will be working with the ACI Woman's Unit to bring training to incarcerated women who are to be released in the next six months and who are interested in the hospitality field. Mario Bueno noted consideration for capacity building / technical assistance for the Industry Partners around programming and outcomes; the Strategic Investment and Evaluation Committee agreed this would be a good idea and will be revisited.

### **Innovative Partnership evaluation**

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to provide the committee with an update. Sherri noted that through the work on RhodeMap RI, GWB was able to get technical assistance from the consultants "Fourth Economy" to provide assistance in evaluating the Innovative Partnership grants. The goal is to acquire data, evidence and analysis to inform future investments in the program and identify best practices in workforce training for disadvantaged populations. They will work with grantees who were awarded in the first year conducting interviews, reviewing proposals and comparing to other workforce training programs such as OJT and ITA. This is a tight timeline with roughly 125 hours of work expected to be complete by the first week of February. Constance Howes noted this is a strategy to get folks work ready.

### **Comprehensive Systems Improvement Plan**

Chair Grey asked Robert Kalaskowski to provide the committee with an update. Robert noted that the Governor's Workforce Board is required to complete a Comprehensive System Improvement plan. The RI General Assembly asks the GWB to put this together. The General Assembly's focus is for this to coordinate delivery of workforce services, and also the ability of a job seeker to be connected to all workforce programs they may be eligible for no matter where in the system they entered. Mario Bruno noted we need a centralized location such as a one stop location to get more information. Robert noted that the RI Department of Labor has a Business Workforce center that offers a menu of services that the CSIP systems can provide. Robert noted that Arkansas currently uses this kind of program.

### **GWB employer engagement campaign**

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide the committee with an update. Rick Brooks described an employer engagement campaign, which is top priority in partnership and is identified in the bi-annual plan. The Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) is seeking a vendor through the Master Price agreement to develop and conduct a comprehensive and sustained web, social media and the mobile based marketing / communications campaign to raise awareness of the many ways in which GWB is addressing and supporting the needs of RI Employers. Rick Brooks noted the vendor will help raise awareness of the workforce challenges and opportunities facing RI. Rick also noted that the GWB Success stories will have an audience such as community outreach, workforce development activities, policy makers and, RI business groups such as Chambers of Commerce. Staff is going to look at the master agreement for the state to obtain support on how GWB shares the information receives with the board and through out the workforce system. Rick Brooks noted that Mike Healey, RI Department of Labor & Training, Chief Public affairs officer has been working closely with GW with this scope of work.

### **Program Focus: Incumbent Worker Training Grants**

Chair Grey asked Dan Brown to provide the committee with an update of GWB Incumbent worker Training grant program. Dan Brown noted this data is through 9/30/14. Dan Brown noted this includes expenditures and outcomes for FY15- Q1 and FY-14 Round II Q1-Q2. Dan gave the committee a breakdown of the Incumbent worker training grant companies by size, IWYG by industry, FY 2015 Demographic of ITWG worker trainees, FY15 worker trainees by race / ethnicity and finally a combined

eligible company has to pay into the JDF. Rick Brooks gave the group an update of GWB outreach to Minority Community and spoke to the committee of the structure of the next RFP. an Brown noted an d.

**Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown