



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

**May 7, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Mike Grey, Chair, Constance Howes, Suzy Alba, Mario Bueno, Channavy Chhay, Scott Jensen, George Nee
Committee Members Absent: Cheryl Merchant, Janet Raymond
GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, David Tremblay, Sherri Carello, Dan Brown, Amelia Roberts, Pat Leduc-Pelletier, Paul Genovesi, Mavis McGetrick
DLT Staff Present: Sean Fontes, Robert Kalaskowski, Scott Greco, Sue Chomka, Diane Vendetti
Others Present: Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Anne Walsh, WSPC
Location: Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:39 am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair Grey asked for a review of the April 9, 2015 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 Mario Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

Chair Grey asked R. Brooks to provide a financial update of JDF investments, expenditures, and FY16 allocations. Referring to the financial analysis spreadsheet, R. Brooks noted a line item for Real Jobs RI (RJRI) was added and a total of \$1.3 million was reallocated in the FY16 budget to support the program. He stated \$586,000 was the initial unallocated balance for FY16 and was reduced to \$86,000 to fund RJRI. He discussed the additional line items that were repurposed: Youth Strategies (new) which decreased from \$800,000 to \$400,000 and Industry Partnership Pre-Employment Training allocations that were eliminated for FY16. Referring to the Balance Unobligated/Deobligated column, R. Brooks reviewed the funds that have not been spent for Incumbent Worker Training Grants (\$111,406) and noted several of the programs are on track to draw down on their balances. He stated the \$705,671 in unobligated funds for Jobs Initiatives has been reallocated for FY16. R. Brooks stated the demand for Work Immersion has far exceeded the initial expectation, noting the \$400,000 allocated in FY16 will not be enough to cover the expected increase in interest for FY16. S. Chomka inquired about trends in increased activity of the Work Immersion Program. S. Carello stated this year, the Unemployed Adults portion of the program started at the same time as the College Students which explains why there are so many more participants this year. Noting a reduction in allocations for Incumbent Worker Training Grants in FY16, C. Howes expressed her concern with the availability of funds and being demand-driven and responsive to employer needs.

S. Jensen discussed supplementing the Incumbent Worker Training Program with Real Jobs RI partnerships. He asked D. Tremblay to discuss a couple of funding opportunities that may be available to use for workforce development activities. D. Tremblay noted staff is currently in the process of applying for a \$3 million Federal WIA Incentive Grant to be split between Adult Education and Workforce Development for a period of two years. He also discussed the Job-Driven National Emergency Grant Sector Strategy solicitation that has just been announced for up to \$7 million. D. Tremblay estimated \$3 million will be requested and the proposal deadline is May 29th. Funds will be made available July 1, 2015. The committee discussed opportunities for braided-funding and future possibilities to support demand-driven initiatives. G. Nee inquired about the FY16 Work Immersion allocation (\$400,000) and any expectation of funding from workforce development General Revenue funds. R. Brooks highlighted an event hosted by the RI Student Loan Authority at the State House honoring businesses that provided internships. R. Brooks took the opportunity to introduce the newly integrated Governor's Workforce Board staff who were formally State Workforce Investment staff. D. Tremblay indicated the committee will be increasingly involved in reviewing federal funds. M. Bueno inquired about any changes to JDF funds as a result of the staff integration. R. Brooks noted the JDF budget will not be affected as federal funds are also used for staff capacity.

Program Focus: Industry Partnerships

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to provide an update of the Industry Partnership core activities and pre-employment training. Referring to the program-specific report, S. Carello discussed the expenditures and key outcomes for FY15 through March 31, 2015. She reviewed some of the core activities highlights of each program including the Tech Collective GRRL Tech event, Building Futures systems work, Defense Innovation Days and career pathways work, the Stepping Up Healthcare Convening, Polaris Manufacturing Summit, and Marine Trades work with the Newport Career and Tech to develop a marines trades program beginning September 2015. S. Carello stated many of the partners are collaborating with each other and discussed the outcomes of the pre-employment training activities that started December 1, 2014. M. Bueno suggested in the future providing projections, goals, or challenges for each partners to better assess the progress of each program. C. Howes discussed the Manufacturing presentation provided at the last Employer Committee meeting, noting the demand for their Career and Tech training program was very high and struck her as a program that could be scaled up. S. Carello also highlighted the priorities for the FY16 contract renewals in alignment with the FY16-17 Biennial Plan priorities such as the Eligible Training Providers List, National Career Readiness Certificate, and increased employer partnerships.

Updates

S. Jensen discussed the main difference between Real Jobs RI and Industry Partnerships. He stated the main difference is that RJRI is a policy platform, in which the partnerships will build demand for workers in a given sector and define what the sector look like in Rhode Island and what type of jobs it will produce in the future. S. Jensen discussed the challenges with measuring sector strategies, limitations to current BLS data and state performance analytics. He stated the RJRI staff is currently working on the draft of sector data to be presented to the Governor in a couple of weeks. He suggested the committee should review the report and discuss the findings in detail.

R. Brooks provided an update on the Workforce Innovation Grants noting a proposal was received on May 6, 2015. He noted proposals are due by May 11, 2015 at 3:00 pm and funding recommendations will be presented to the committee at the June 4, 2015 meeting.

R. Brooks noted the staff is in the final stages of developing the application for the Rolling Incumbent Worker Training Grants and the online advertisements will be running the first week of June. Lastly, even though the process has changed to rolling grants, there will be an informational session on June 8, 2015 at CCRI for any businesses interested in learning more about the new process.

Q3 Program Update Report

Chair Grey asked Amelia Roberts to discuss the FY15 performance data for GWB programs through March 31, 2015. Referring to the Program Updates handout, A. Roberts highlighted key data points of each program, discussing the most notable changes from the second quarter report. She stated 80 companies have received annual Incumbent Worker Training grants, which include the 10 companies who were funded in January for a period of 6 months. A total of 71 companies have received Express Grants so far, with 544 workers trained through April 29, 2015. For Youth Development activities, A. Roberts reviewed the total number of participants served in Q3 (2920), the total number of youth that received work readiness training (2582), and the number of job placements (283). S. Jensen inquired how the performance data is collected. A. Roberts stated grantees submit quarterly performance reports that used to generate the comprehensive quarterly program report. She further discussed key statistics of the Adult Education, Work Immersion, and Innovative Partnerships Program in relation to their Q2 data.

Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Roberts