



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

**September 3, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

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

Committee Members Present: Mike Grey, Chair, Constance Howes, George Nee, Suzy Alba, Mario Bueno, Cheryl Merchant, Martin Trueb, Channavy Chhay, Scott Jensen

GWB Board Members Present: Rick Brooks, David Tremblay, Robert Kalaskowski, Amelia Roberts, Dan Brown Mavis McGetrick, Kristen McKenna, Pat Pelletier, Nathan Sloan

GWB Staff Present: Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Lisa D'Agostino, Sue Chomka, Paul Genovesi, Pat Pelletier,

DLT Staff Present: Cheryl Dacosta, Tech Collective; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Alexis Stern, Philip Less, Jim Glover

Others Present: Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

Location:

Call to Order

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair Grey asked for a review of the August 6, 2015 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

WIOA Policy: Local Workforce Boards

Chair Grey asked David Tremblay to provide an overview of the WIOA policy: Local Workforce Board. David referred to the handout preliminary policy on Local Workforce Development Area Designation. David noted section 106(b) of the Workforce innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the Governor to designate local workforce development areas. David noted Training and Employment Guidance letter (TEGL) 27-14 directs that the Governor, in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board, (The Governor's Workforce Board – GWB) must develop a policy and procedure for initial and subsequent designation of existing and new local areas.

George Nee asked, if the Governor wanted to create one WIB right now. Can it be done? David stated No, but we do already have strong workforce areas. David noted Section 106(b) of WIOA establishes that the Governor must designate local areas in order for the state to receive Adult, Dislocated worker, and Youth funding under Title I. In development requests for initial designation as exiting and new local areas, the Governor must consult with the GWB, consult with the Chief Elected Official and affected local boards. The Governor must consider comments received through a public comment process that affords representatives of interested business, education, and labor organizations the opportunity to provide input on the formation of local areas. Chair Grey ask if there is a Chief Elected Officer. David noted the Mayor of Providence is for the Greater RI. David highlighted some of the criteria for subsequent local Designation, local area must performed successfully, and sustained fiscal integrity. The local area must meet the regional planning requirements described in WIOA Section 106(c) David

noted minor parts are new such as the apprenticeship. The Governor by congress should be on the board. Connie Howes ask, has key sector been defined in Rhode Island. David stated that Real Jobs RI. Please forward all comments to Rick Brooks and David Tremblay.

Program Focus: Real Jobs RI

Chair Grey asked Scott Jenson to provide an overview on Real Jobs RI. What is Real Jobs RI? A new approach to meeting the REAL workforce needs of our employers and creating REAL job opportunities for our workers. Governor Raimondo has promised "a new approach to workforce training where we partner with businesses to make sure we're training people for the jobs that actually exist now. Real Jobs delivers on this promise by putting Rhode Island employers at the center of the state's workforce development system. The new system will consist of Strategic Industry Partnerships, working collaborations of employers, secondary and postsecondary institutions of education, government entities, training providers, nonprofits, community organizations, and other partners to meet employers demand and put Rhode Islanders back to work. Scott noted the vision of Real Jobs RI, he would like to see it compete with the Germany. We are in a spot where skills are important and having the right people is crucial for economic success. The focus is to do workforce development better than any state, with the end result being better jobs. Scott stated that we as a country need to figure out how we are going to compete with other countries. The program is to build a system in RI that works. How will it work? Strategic Industry Partnership will provide the framework for business led workforce strategies and solutions through a networked approach. Real jobs RI will determine the specific needs of employers, convene the necessary partners to provide strategies and solutions to address workforce demands, provide skills training and resources to meet labor force needs. Scott noted that Bryon Auguste, Managing Director of Opportunity at Work has expressed interest in bringing his initiative to Rhode Island. Prior to co-founding Opportunity at Work Mr. Aguste served for 2 years in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, where his policy portfolio included job creation and labor markets, skills and workforce policies, innovation, investments, infrastructure, transformation and goods movement. Scott noted the Real Jobs RI team has also been working with Jeffrey Liebman, professor at John F. Kennedy School who has also designated a staff team of people to work in RI. Chair Grey asked, if Real Jobs RI was in alignment with the new Career and Technical Education Board. Scott stated that he along with Chair Grey are on the board for CTE and that the programs are aligned.

Adjournment

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown