



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

**January 14, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Grey, Chair, Mario Bueno, Channavy Chhay, Constance Howes, Scott Jensen, George Nee, Janet Raymond  
**Committee Members Absent:** Suzy Alba, Cheryl Merchant, George Nee  
**GWB Staff Present:** Rick Brooks, David Tremblay, Amelia Roberts, Dan Brown, Kristen McKenna  
**DLT Staff Present:** Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, Nancy Olson, Robert Kalaskowski, Diane Vendetti, Carlos Ribeiro, Sue Chomka  
**Other Guests Present:** Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Philip Less, RIDE; Anne Walsh, WSPC  
**Location:** Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

**Call to Order**

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:50 am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

Chair Grey asked for a review of the December 10, 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 Scott Jensen. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

**FY17 GWB Budget Allocations**

Referring to the GWB Budget Allocations FY2016-FY2017 worksheet, R. Brooks reviewed the budgeted external expenditures for FY2016 and estimated FY2017 program availability. He noted the projected (based on current contracts) unobligated carry-in from FY2016 is \$457,817, bringing the total available funds for FY2017 to \$9,925,505. R. Brooks reviewed the available funds, expenditures, and external contract allocations for FY2017, highlighting the \$400,000 for new youth CTE initiatives such as Work Immersion and a partnership with the Youth Centers currently under development.

The new Youth CTE initiative aims to connect Youth Centers to CTE schools to provide occupational skills training to out-of-school youth. R. Brooks noted the LWIBs are working closely with several CTE schools and youth centers to develop programs in Newport (culinary), Woonsocket (IT), Chariho (construction), and PCTA (culinary). Similarly to other youth initiatives, WIOA funds will be used as the primary source of support for these programs and the JDF funds will supplement as means to remove eligibility challenges.

R. Brooks indicated the \$3,245,988 allocated for Real Jobs RI is the total available funds minus all other line items. He added, the FY17 allocation for capacity building was significantly reduced from FY16 because many of the unique expenses from last year are not anticipated for FY17, such as the Comprehensive System Improvement Plan (CSIP). J. Raymond noted that WIOA has a strong emphasis on serving out-of-school youth.

R. Brooks indicated that funding for Industry Partnerships was reallocated to Real Jobs RI for FY17. S. Jensen highlighted that many of the Industry Partners are currently Real Jobs partners with the exception of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association. C. Howes inquired about overhead and whether be used for that funding through Real Jobs RI can purpose. S. Jensen noted that Real Jobs RI funding is very flexible and can be used for overhead as long as the overall goals of the partnership are met in terms of their intermediary functions.

Referring to the Workforce Innovation Grantee worksheet, R. Brooks discussed the 16 current grantees, noting that five are either directly or indirectly associated with Real Jobs RI. He noted that their contracts state that grantees may be eligible for renewed funds for FY17 based on their performance and the availability of funds. Those that are either a lead applicant or part of a Real Jobs partnership, will not be eligible to apply for Workforce Innovation funds. R. Brooks proposed allocating \$1.4 million in FY17 to support Workforce Innovation grantees that are currently not involved with RJRI, stating that it is highly unlikely that all 11 will be refunded for several reasons: performance, some may not reapply, and others may look to connect with a Real Jobs partner. C. Howes inquired about other funding streams for Real Jobs RI. S. Jensen discussed the TechHire NEG and Childcare federal grants and the opportunity to braid federal and state funds.

G. Nee inquired about the emphasis on Adult Education and Literacy under WIOA and if there will be any additional federal resources to address it. P. Less noted the federal budget has seen a slight increase in WIOA appropriations for education that may increase RIDE’s budget by about three to five percent in federal funding. G. Nee stressed the continued concern of waiting lists for Adult Education.

Chair Grey asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to allocate the anticipated FY2017 JDF revenue as follows:

	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Program Availability</b>	<b>12,967,688</b>
RIDE (Adult Ed)	(3,500,000)
<b>Anticipated FY16 unobligated carry-in</b>	<b>457,817</b>
<b>Total available funds</b>	<b>9,925,505</b>
<b>External contracts:</b>	
Incumbent Worker Training	1,700,000
Capacity Building	75,000
Youth Strategies - Summer	1,500,000
Youth Strategies - Centers	500,000
Youth Strategies - New	400,000
Industry Partnerships – Core Functions	-
Work Immersion - General Revenue	704,517
Work Immersion - JDF	400,000
Workforce Innovation Grants	1,400,000
Real Jobs RI	3,245,988
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,925,505</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-</b>

**VOTE:** George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Scott Jensen. Janet Raymond recused from the vote. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

## **Workforce System Data Maps**

Rick Brooks reviewed the Workforce System Data maps that were developed for the Comprehensive System Improvement Plan. Using the interactive program bubble chart of workforce development expenditures by agency, R. Brooks demonstrated how it can be a useful tool for policy makers to see where the workforce system dollars are going. He showed the committee how the tool allows the user to sort and filter by agency, service provided, funding source, total cost, number of people served, and cost per participant. R. Brooks indicated the data used to inform the maps was collected as part of the Unified Workforce Expenditure and Program Report of FY14 outcomes and funding information. He stated the size of the bubbles relates to the total cost for each agency and the color of the bubbles corresponds with the types of services provided. R. Brooks showed how hovering over a bubble will provide additional information such demographics and performance outcomes.

Referring to the geographic vendor map, R. Brooks explained how this interactive map can be used to explore the distribution of workforce development service by vendor in Rhode Island. He noted each vendor is represented by a circle on the map and the size of the circle corresponds to the number of people served while the color of the circle represents the type of service provided.

G. Nee suggested showing what funds are discretionary and which are regulated and can only be spent in certain areas. He noted it would be useful to policy makers to know which funds can only be used to serve certain populations and what funds are flexible. To paint the full picture, S. Jensen noted that Higher Ed and K-12 should be included on the maps. The committee noted the most noticeable characteristic of the maps is the large amount of small programs that serve few people. The committee further discussed how the maps can be used to inform policy decisions and illustrates how complex Rhode Island's workforce development system is.

R. Brooks noted the next steps of collecting data by types of occupational training, demographics, or industry specific information. Chair Grey stressed the importance of common measurements

## **Workforce Performance Data Tracking and Reporting**

Referring to a handout showing the data tracking and reporting on a system, agency, program, and vendor level, R. Brooks discussed the ways in which public sector workforce development activities are tracked and reported such as the UEP and data dashboards. He noted each program has its own way of tracking and managing data. He also stated Real Jobs RI will be reporting the progress and outcomes of their grantees to the Board. S. Jensen recommended to continue the discussion to determine what type of data we should track and what would be the most useful data to report on. The committee further discussed the importance of how data is presented and how it can be interpreted.

## **Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts