

WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Board of Directors Meeting

April 10, 2007

Minutes

WIB voting members present included:

**Vincent Balasco Paul Harden Fred Pendlebury Pat Talin
Joseph Cannon John Iaderosa Betty Pleacher Johan Uvin
Michael Cassidy Steven Kitchin Fred Ricci Kimberly Weiss
Vanessa Cooley Peter Koch Paula Santos Richard Westlake
Joseph Crowley Etelvina Leite Scott Seaback Steven Wilson
Joseph DeSantis Jane Nugent Edward Sneesby
Joseph DesRoches Paul Ouellette Frank Sullivan**

WIB voting members absent included:

**Jeanne Brockway Dorothy Furlong Colleen Odell
Diane Cook Diane Karcz Ernie Vergano
Joseph DiPina Dorothy Mattiello Darrell Waldron
Raymond Filippone Muriel Morrissette**

Others in attendance included:

Dottie Miller Nick Ucci

Carlos Ribeiro Arthur Jodoin

Janice Lepizzera Karen Waters

Maureen Palumbo Mavis McGetrick

Nancy Olson Sandra Powell

WELCOME

Chairman Steve Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 13, 2007

Chairman Kitchin asked Board members to review the minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting.

Pat Talin motioned to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting.

Joe Cannon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Kitchin introduced Nick Ucci and stated that he had joined the staff of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island (WPGRI) as Acting Coordinator of Administration and Operations. He mentioned that the WPGRI staff had taken the time to reorganize their office and that it looked very professional. He added that the staff seemed reenergized, due, in part, to the seamless transition from Mike Koback to Acting Executive Director Dottie Miller.

Chairman Kitchin also reminded the Board that the Board's Annual Meeting will be held on June 12, 2007 at the Crown Plaza in Warwick. He added that the Board would continue the tradition of recognizing the outstanding work of staff and partner agencies at that meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Acting Executive Director Dottie Miller reported that staff had prepared the WIA Two-Year Plan for 2007-2009 in draft form that had been emailed to the members at the end of last week. She explained that the Plan outlines how the Board operates and the processes and programs in place for workforce development programs throughout Greater Rhode Island. She also mentioned that following Board approval, the draft Plan would be submitted to the State Workforce Investment Office and the Governor's Workforce Board for approval, and that it would also be available to the public for comment. She went on to say that the comment period culminated with a legally advertised public hearing scheduled for April 26, 2007. She explained that all comments received during this period would be considered and included as an attachment to the draft plan. Dottie then reviewed a copy of the draft Plan's Executive Summary for all Board members in attendance.

Chairman Kitchin noted that the draft Plan had been reviewed and endorsed by the Program Development & Evaluation Committee and the Executive Committee, who recommended that the Board approve the draft Plan. He then opened the floor for comment. Steve Wilson

noted an inconsistency with committee names in the draft Plan and Jane Nugent provided comment on the strategic importance of “baby boomers,” suggesting that their importance be further addressed in the Plan.

Vanessa Cooley motioned to approve the draft Plan. Pat Talin seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Council Chair Frank Sullivan reviewed recent highlights of youth programs. He noted that previously-funded, on-going programs (PY06) are at 81% enrollment level and expected to be at 100% by end of April. He then reported that the twelve programs that had been funded for 2007, for a total of nearly \$1.8 million dollars, were expected to serve 792 youth, a 600 percent increase from last year. He also stated that two Youth Satellite Offices were being developed to serve youth, one in Woonsocket and one in South County. Frank also mentioned that the WPGRI staff would meet on April 17, 2007 with the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency to discuss the development of the Pawtucket Youth Center at netWORKri Pawtucket.

PROGRAM QUALITY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Richard Westlake noted that the Committee had not met since the last Board meeting, but that it would be meeting in two weeks. As a result, he stated that there was no further update.

Chairman Kitchin stated that the lack of out-of-state wage information that was formerly accessed through the Wage Record Information System (WRIS) was an on-going issue and that this lack of data access was negatively impacting performance measures. The Chairman asked for the Board's patience in this sensitive matter, and stated that he would like the Board to go on record by sending a letter to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training (DLT) addressing their concerns.

Board members discussed their continued concerns over this issue. Richard Westlake suggested that the Board should ask for a formal response from the Department of Labor & Training to inform the Board of what was being done to resolve the data access issue. Vincent Balasco suggested that alternative solutions also be addressed in the Board's letter.

Joe Cannon motioned, as a friendly amendment to the Board's March 13, 2007 motion that Chairman Kitchin be authorized to send a letter addressing the Board's concerns to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training. Joseph Crowley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kim Weiss recused herself from voting.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Committee Chair Paul Ouellette provided the Board with an update on the plans and preparations for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 12, 2007. He also noted that the Committee had examined vacancies on the Board and would forward nominations for the Youth Council to Chairman Frank Sullivan.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION

Committee Chair Paul Harden noted that the Committee had approved the draft Two-Year Plan at their last meeting and that they had also reviewed the status of the H1-B grant. He informed the Board that the Committee had also discussed the current \$4000, cap for the Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and explained that discussions with the Providence-Cranston Workforce Investment Board would follow to consider lowering the cap.

Paula Santos asked if an official report would be made available to the Board regarding the H1-B grant. Committee Chair Paul Harden agreed that the WPGRI staff should generate such a report.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATION

Johan Uvin made a presentation to the Board on developments in Adult Education throughout Rhode Island.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Kim Weiss, Joe DeSantis, and Vanessa Cooley suggested changes to the minutes of the Board's March 13, 2007 meeting.

Pat Talin motioned to reconsider the minutes of March 13, 2007. Joe Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kim Weiss noted that she recused herself from a vote on March 13, 2007. Vanessa Cooley and Joe DeSantis noted a correction to change the use of the word "rescinded" to "recused."

Vanessa Cooley motioned to accept the amended minutes of the March 13, 2007 Board meeting. Paula Santos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Kitchin requested a motion to adjourn.

Joe DeSantis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paul Ouellette seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Ucci

Acting Coordinator

Workforce Partnership of Greater RI