

WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Board of Directors Meeting

March 13, 2007

Minutes

WIB voting members present included:

**Joseph Cannon Raymond Filippone Paul Ouellette Frank Sullivan
Michael Cassidy Diane Karcz Fred Pendlebury Pat Talin
Diane Cook Steven Kitchin Betty Pleacher Johan Uvin
Vanessa Cooley Dorothy Mattiello Paula Santos Kimberly Weiss
Joseph DeSantis Muriel Morrissette Scott Seaback Richard Westlake
Joseph DiPina Jane Nugent Edward Sneesby Steven Wilson**

WIB voting members absent included:

**Vincent Balasco Dorothy Furlong Joan Lariviere Ernie Vergano
Jeanne Brockway Paul Harden Etalvina Leite Darrell Waldron
Joseph Crowley John Iaderosa Colleen Odell
Joseph DesRoches Peter Koch Fred Ricci**

Others in attendance included:

**John O'Hare Nick Ucci Michael Koback Patrice Cavanaugh
Christine Greico Carlos Ribeiro Nancy Olson**

**Donna Treglia Janice Lepizzera Karen Waters
Jean Severance Maureen Palumbo Dottie Miller**

WELCOME

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 9, 2007

Chairman Kitchin asked Board members to review the minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting. Chairman Kitchin noted a correction to the spelling of the Chairman's name under Old Business.

Pat Talin motioned to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting as amended.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Kitchin reported on the NAWB Conference in Washington, DC that he attended along with Paul Ouellette, Mike Koback and Dottie Miller. He stated that with the new administration, WIA Reauthorization looks to be on the fast track. Chairman Kitchin also reported that DOL's WIA data shows only 189,000 clients receiving training, and explained to the Board that this number does not include clients who received services besides training. He stated that the USDOL is not very supportive of the workforce development

system, and downplays the work of the local WIBs.

Chairman Kitchin reported that he is waiting for the meeting to be scheduled with the Governor regarding netWORKri restructuring.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Mike Koback reported that staff is preparing the 2007 Two-Year Plan, and currently working on the budget and netWORKri agreements.

Mike stated that the GRI, Providence/Cranston, The Governor's Workforce Board, and business are working on two Regional applications for DOL's WIRED Grants for 5 million per region for 3 years. They are currently looking at Biotech and Health Industries. The proposal is due April 13th, and must be signed by the Governor of each state.

The GWB Strategic Planning Committee has contracted and met with the Corporation for Skilled Workforce (CSW) to discuss a process and timelines. They will be presenting to the Governor's Workforce Board and the Workforce Cabinet. Mike explained that this is a very large undertaking, and will take place over the next 2 to 3 months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

YOUTH COUNCIL

Chairman Kitchin recused himself from this portion of the meeting due his concern about potential conflicts of interest, and asked Vice Chairman, Paul Ouellette to conduct the meeting.

Youth Council Chair Frank Sullivan reviewed the youth programs RFP process. He reported that 29 proposal were received, read, rated, and then reviewed by the RFP Committee and the Youth Council. Frank stated proposal were submitted for three areas 1) Component-Youth Centers, 2) Programs Serving All Youth, and 3) WIA Programs.

Frank reviewed the Youth Council's recommendations for funding WIA Programs. Frank reported that the Youth Council recommends funding the following four WIA Program Proposals: Comprehensive Community Action's Older Youth, Comprehensive Community Action's Younger Youth, Family Resources Community Action Out-of-School Younger Youth, and Family Resources Community Action In-School Younger Youth.

Frank Sullivan motioned to approve the four recommended WIA Proposals.

Pat Talin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Kitchin and Joseph DeSantis recused themselves from voting.

Frank reviewed the Youth Council's recommendations for Component/Youth Center proposals. He reported that the Youth Council recommends funding the following two proposals: South County Community Action and Family Resources Community Action's Component/Youth Centers Proposals.

Pat Talin motioned to approve the two recommended Component/Youth Center Proposals.

Fred Pendlebury seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Kitchin and Joseph DeSantis recused themselves from voting.

Frank reviewed the Youth Council's recommendations for Programs for All Youth proposals. Frank reported that the Youth Council recommends funding the following six Programs for All Youth proposals: My Turn; Child & Family Services; Year Up; The Met Tech Center; Women & Infants Hospital; Tri-Town Community Action.

Pat Talin motioned to approve the six recommended Programs for All Youth Proposals.

Fred Pendlebury seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Kitchin, Joseph DeSantis and Vanessa Cooley recused themselves from voting.

Frank Sullivan asked the board for their approval to appoint Johan Uvin, from Adult Education, and Michael Montanaro from the Office of Rehabilitation Services to the Youth Council.

Frank Sullivan motioned to approve appointing Johan Uvin and Michael Montanaro to the Youth Council. Pat Talin seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Paul Ouellette returned the meeting to Chairman Kitchin.

PROGRAM QUALITY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Richard Westlake summarized the meeting with LMI (Labor Market Information) unit, stating that the information they provide was very helpful.

Richard stated that the last meeting was held at the Pawtucket netWORKri Office, and the committee received a tour of the center, and encouraged all board members to visit one of the netWORKri offices.

Richard reported that the committee is very concerned over the issue regarding the lack of access to out-of-state wages (WRIS data), and the impact it is having on our WIA outcomes. The committee is deeply afraid about WPGRI's inability to report accurate performance data due to the lack of a data sharing agreement.

The board discussed their concerns over this issue, and the effect that failing performance measures would have on the board. Mike Koback reported that this is a national concern, that no New England state has signed this agreement, and we are currently collecting supplemental data (i.e. pay-stubs) to show a participant has out-of-state wages.

After much discussion, the board felt that an official statement of their concerns is necessary.

Joe Cannon motioned to authorized Chairman Kitchin to send a letter addressing the Board's concerns to USDOL Regional Office, RI's Congressional Representatives, RI DLT Director, and the Governor. Pat Talin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kim Weiss recused herself from voting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Kitchin read a letter dated March 3, 2007 from Director Michael Koback. In this letter, Mike explained that as a result of his need to focus on the strategic planning process under the Governor's Workforce Board, he was requesting a 90 day leave of absence from his position as WPGRI Executive Director, and recommends appointing Dottie Miller as his replacement. Steve informed the Board that the Executive Committee recommends accepting the request, and appointing Dottie Miller Executive Director effective 3/13/07.

Vanessa Cooley motioned to accept Michael Koback's request for a Leave of Absence as WPGRI Executive Director, and appoint Dottie Miller as Executive Director. Pat Talin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vanessa Cooley reported that Board member Joseph Crowley recently had open-heart surgery, and she is happy to report he is recovering and doing well.

Vanessa also informed the Board that the Perkins Act One-Year Plan is written, and if any one is interested in reviewing the data to let her know, and she will send it to them.

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

Paul Ouellette motioned to adjourn the meeting. Pat Talin seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice Cavanaugh

Workforce Partnership of Greater RI