

# **WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 9, 2007**

### **Minutes**

#### **WIB voting members present included:**

**Jeanne Brockway Joseph DesRoches Etalvina Leite Pat Talin  
Joseph Cannon Anthony Federico Muriel Morrissette Johan Uvin  
Michael Cassidy Raymond Filippone Paul Ouellette Ernie Vergano  
Diane Cook Paul Harden Fred Ricci Richard Westlake  
Vanessa Cooley John Iaderosa Scott Seaback Steve Wilson  
Joseph Crowley Diane Karcz Edward Sneesby  
Joseph DiPina Steven Kitchin Frank Sullivan**

#### **WIB voting members absent included:**

**Vincent Balasco Joan Lariviere Fred Pendlebury Kimberly Weiss  
Joseph DeSantis Dorothy Mattiello Betty Pleacher  
Dorothy Furlong Jane Nugent Paula Santos  
Peter Koch Colleen Odell Darrell Waldron**

#### **Others in attendance included:**

**John O'Hare Sharon Petrarca Michael Koback Patrice Cavanaugh**

**Mary Demers Sandra Powell Nancy Olson Karen Waters**

**Mavis McGetrick Jean Severance Maureen Palumbo Arthur Jodoin**

**Donna Treglia Joanne Soprano Carlos Ribeiro Dottie Miller**

**Janice Lepizzera**

## **WELCOME**

**Chairman Steve Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 15, 2006**

**Chairman Kitchin asked Board members to review the minutes of the September 12, 2006 meeting. Chairman Kitchin noted a correction to the spelling of the Chairman's name under Old Business.**

**Paul Harden motioned to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting as amended.**

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

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Chairman Kitchin briefly discussed WIA Reauthorization, and what effect the change in House leadership might have. He stated that he, along with other members of the Board, would be attending the National Association of Workforce Board's Conference at the end of February, which will provide more information on its status.**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Executive Director Mike Koback reported the Governor's Workforce Board has issued an RFP for a Consultant/Facilitator to work with the Boards and their stakeholders to create a collaborative Strategic Workforce Development Plan that would be comprehensive of all workforce-related services available in the state. He also reported that Industry Partnerships in the fields of Finance and Insurance, and Biotechnology RFP would soon be released, along with an RFP for Comprehensive Workforce Training Grants that allows employers to apply for funding up to \$50,000 for incumbent worker training.**

**He then introduced the Dept. of Labor & Training's Public Relations Specialist, Laura Hart, stating that she will also be an asset to the Board's marketing efforts.**

**Mr. Koback stated that USDOL approved the Youth Waiver creating two Youth Workforce Opportunity Centers. One of the centers will be located in the same building as the Pawtucket netWORKri Office. Mike expressed his gratitude to Board member Mike Cassidy for his willingness to assist in the financing and construction of that space.**

## **NetworkRI RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL**

**Sandra Powell, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, provided the members with a brief history and overview for restructuring the netWORKri offices. Sandra stated that in 1998 RI received a \$4 million grant to build a comprehensive One-Stop System where the mandated partners were supposed to contribute to the system's costs, and that federal money would become available and utilized to support the one-stop infrastructure. The reality, five**

years later, is that there has been limited investing by the mandated partners which has created a structural deficit of \$2.3 million which impacts the ability to effectively staff and operate netWORKri. Sandra proceeded to inform the Board that there were three options presented to the Governor's Workforce Board Restructuring Task Team, and after a review of those options, the Task Team endorsed and recommended Option 2. This options consists of keeping Providence and Pawtucket as comprehensive netWORKri offices; making Woonsocket and West Warwick DLT Reemployment Centers; closing the Warren and Wakefield offices, and exploring an alternative site in Newport that will allow DLT to maintain a presence on Aquidneck Island.

Chairman Kitchin thanked Sandra for her presentation and recommended that the Board support and endorse the option presented by Sandra Powell.

A motion was made by Pat Talin that the Board endorse Option 2 as recommended by the Governor's Workforce Board Restructuring Task Team. Frank Sullivan seconded the motion. Diane Cook and Ed Sneesby abstained. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Dottie Miller provided a quick review of the new youth services vision, and reported that the WIBs worked together to created a combined RFP for youth services. Dottie reported that a Confab held in

November had over 100 attendees who provided positive feedback. The mandatory Bidders Conference held on December 12th had over 95 attendees, and that the proposals are due January 25th. Dottie explained that half of the WIA funds would be used to provide traditional WIA programs, and the other half, combined with the money from the GWB, used to fund the new model program. Dottie informed the Board that due to the new model program, the WIBs are expecting to receive a lot more proposal than previous years.

Chairman Kitchin informed the Board of the passing of Youth Council member Robert Carosi and requested a moment of silence in his memory.

#### **PROGRAM QUALITY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

Committee chair Richard Westlake reported that the Committee has been discussing demographics and the need for more information about employers' needs. The next meeting will be January 30th, and Labor Market Information staff will present the Committee their capabilities and how they can assist the Committee obtain the information they need. Mr. Westlake also stated the Committee is looking at summarizing the netWORKri reports in order to share them with the Board.

#### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Paul Ouellette reported the Board Development Committee has not met since November. He reminded the Board of the vacancy created when Marie Strauss from the Dept. of Elderly Affairs retired in

**December. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 26th.**

#### **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**Chair Paul Harden reported that as of December 31, 2006, there were 105 ITAs awarded, and 46% of the funds have been obligated. Dottie Miller reported that the HI-B grant funds were nearly depleted. She stated that the 29 RI teachers completed the six-credit biotechnology summer graduate program, and 10 RI high schools have committed to developing biotech curricula.**

#### **BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

**Informational presentations were given to the Board by members Joe Cannon from CAS America, and Joseph DesRoches, DLT/Veteran's Representative.**

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

**Vanessa Cooley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Joseph DesRoches seconded the motion.**

**The motion unanimously passed.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patrice Cavanaugh**

**Workforce Partnership of Greater RI**