

**WORKFORCE PARTNERSHP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**June 10, 2008**

**Board Members**

**Everett Amaral Cynthia Farrell**

**Raymond Pingitore**

**Vincent Balasco**

**Raymond Filippone**

**Betty Pleacher**

**Joseph Cannon \***

**Christine Grieco**

**Fred Ricci**

**Michael Cassidy**

**Paul Harden**

**Nancy Roderick**

**Diane Cook**

**John Iaderosa \***

**Scott Seaback**

**Vanessa Cooley \***

**Diane Karcz**

**Edward Sneesby \***

**Bob Cooper**

**Steven Kitchin**

**Pat Talin**

**Joseph Crowley**

**Peter Koch**

**Andrew Tyska**

**Joseph DeSantis \***

**Dorothy Mattiello \***

**Johan Uvin**

**Joseph DesRoches**

**Jane Nugent \***

**Ernie Vergano**

**Alexis Devine**

**Susan O'Donnell \***

**Darrell Waldron \***

**Joseph DiPina**

**Paul Ouellette**

**Kimberly Weiss**

**Allen Durand \***

**Fred Pendlebury \***

**Steven Wilson**

**(\* denotes absent)**

**Guests Present**

**Sandra Powell**

**Joseph MarcAurele**

**Susan Babin**

**Thomas Fay**

**Mavis McGetrick**

**Alberto DeBurgo**

**Lori Norris**

**Connie Parks**

**Joanne Soprano**

**Sharon Gainey**

**John O'Hare**

**Janet Pratt**

**Kathleen Stoddart**

**Kathy Partington**

**Donna Treglia**

**David Francis**

**Bob Ricci**

**Helder Videira**

**Brandon Melton**

**Maria Ferreira**

**Donna Chaput**

**Nancy Olson**

**Laura Hart**

**Maria DeRoche**

**Rebecca Mahle**

**Patricia McCrea**

**Maureen Palumbo**

**Gary Miller**

**Staff Present**

**Nick Ucci**

**Gail DuPont**

**Carlos Ribeiro**

**Dottie Miller**

**Arthur Jodoin**

**Janice Lepizzera**

**Deb Anthes**

**Russ Irving**

**With a quorum present, Chairman Steven Kitchin welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island at 8:40 A.M. He introduced the Board officers, Paul Ouellette Vice-Chair; Ernie Vergano, Treasurer; and Pat Talin, Secretary; as well as Nick Ucci, Acting Executive Director. Also seated at the head table were the guest speakers, Joseph MarcAurele, President of Citizens Bank and Chair of the Governor's Workforce Board and Sandra Powell, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.**

**Chairman Kitchin related to those present that the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island represents 37 of the 39 cities and towns of Rhode Island and was mandated by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). He explained that the primary focus of the Board is to develop workforce development programs for youth and adults. He stated that the Board is comprised of 39 members with a business majority, with five committees and a youth council.**

**Chairman Kitchin introduced guest speaker Joseph MarcAurele, President of Citizens Bank and Chairman of the Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island.**

### **Highlights of Joseph J. MarcAurele's Speech**

**Mr. MarcAurele said that he welcomed the opportunity to address this organization as he feels it represents the people who are responsible for improving the workforce of Rhode Island. He noted that the workforce faces challenges due to a combination of what is happening with the economy, taxation, and budget problems at the state and city levels. He explained that the key to success in the 21st century is collaboration among workforce development agencies and industry to streamline services and leverage funding on the state and local level to support economic growth. He offered the ISDI as an example of a unified approach among the two Local Workforce Investment Boards, stating that through the ISDI, the Local Boards will work with Rhode Island's Industry Partnerships to address skill gaps in the workforce and align training resources and services with the labor market needs.**

**Chairman Kitchin thanked Mr. MarcAurele and the Governor's Workforce Board for its continued support. He then introduced Sandra M. Powell, Director of the Department of Labor & Training.**

### **Highlights of Sandra M. Powell's Speech**

**Director Powell spoke about collaboration as the driving force behind**

**a successful workforce. She explained that collaboration among the Governor's Workforce Board, the two Local Workforce Investment Boards, the Department of Labor and Training and other partners has made Rhode Island a national model for best practices in serving youth. She also acknowledged that changes in the One-Stop Centers have produced improvements as well, making the Centers more efficient and responsive in the delivery of services, as well as expanding access through technology with industry involvement in workforce development. Ms. Powell commended Dottie Miller for her successful H1B federal training program and stated that the Industry Skills Development Initiative was another example of multi-agency collaboration among state and federal funding streams, the private and public sectors, and education and economic development.**

**Chairman Kitchin thanked Ms. Powell and introduced Nick Ucci, Acting Executive Director.**

**Nick thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication during this year of transition and increasing economic challenges. He said that he is confident that the Board is poised to reach new and innovated heights in the coming months. He stated that the success of the past year and the organization's ability to meet tomorrow's challenges rely upon the staff on a daily basis to support and help develop programs that we speak about in our committees and board meetings. Nick recognized partnerships with the Department of Labor and Training, One-Stop Center Managers, Governor's Workforce Board, and**

**Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and all of their staffs.**

**Chairman Steven Kitchin moved to the business portion of the meeting. He stated that all Board members had been sent supporting documentation for voting items on the agenda. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2008 WPGRI Board meeting.**

**VOTE: Peter Koch moved to approve the minutes. Bob Cooper seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**Chairman Kitchin moved to approve the consent agenda in total. The voting items are WIA Plan Modifications #2 and #3, Contribution to the Employee 401(k) Plan, PY08 Budget Resolution, Corporate Contract Agreement, and Youth Council Reappointments.**

**VOTE: Pat Talin moved to approve all items on the consent agenda. Johan Uvin seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**At this time, Chairman Steven Kitchin recused himself and Vice-Chair Paul Ouellette led this portion of the meeting.**

**Vice-Chair Ouellette reported that the Strategic Development Committee received proposals for the Industry Skills Development Initiative and recommended along with the Executive Committee the proposals submitted by My Turn and Tech Collective be funded for up to \$415,000 and that staff be allowed to negotiate those contracts.**

**The contracts will be funded by Job Development Fund dollars from the Governor's Workforce Board.**

**VOTE: Johan Uvin moved to approve funding up to \$415,000 and that the staff be allowed to negotiate the contracts. Paul Harden seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**At this time, Raymond Pingitore recused himself from the meeting.**

**Vice-Chair Ouellette stated a proposed increase to the Individual Training Account (ITA) cap to \$5,500 effective July 1, 2008. He stated that the Strategic Development and Executive Committees have recommended this increase to help make training more affordable for area clients.**

**VOTE: Joseph DesRoches moved to approve the ITA increase to \$5,500 effective July 1, 2009. Peter Koch seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**The two recused board members, Steven Kitchin and Raymond Pingitore, returned to the meeting.**

**Kimberly Weiss recused herself from the meeting.**

**Chairman Kitchin explained that the Executive Committee voted to recommend approval for the WIA Services Agreement to support the**

**operations of the netWORKri One-Stop Career Centers in the amount of \$500,000 for WIA Adult and \$750,000 for WIA Dislocated Workers funds for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.**

**VOTE: Cynthia Farrell moved to approve PY08 WIA Services Agreement. Fred Ricci seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**Kimberly Weiss rejoined the meeting.**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Executive Committee:**

**Steve Kitchin reported that this committee has met eight times to review committee work, personnel items, and prepare agendas for Board meetings. Steve introduced the committee members.**

##### **Strategic Committee:**

**Paul Harden thanked the members of the committee who helped align membership with the state's high-growth industries, recommended the Board's Two-Year WIA plan and modifications, oversaw the expansion of the Eligible Training Providers List to 130 programs, reviewed and recommended the ITA cap level increase, oversaw the extension of the H1B Biotech Training Grant, oversaw submission of the STEM and NTAR grant proposals, and finally, oversaw the development and issuance of the Industry Skill Development Initiative, one of the most dynamic programs this Board has been**

engaged in.

### **Youth Council**

**Vice-Chair Sue Babin delivered the report on behalf of Chair Cynthia Farrell. Sue recognized former Chair Joe Cannon for his dedication and commitment over the past year and wished him a speedy recovery. She also welcomed Cynthia Farrell as Chair of the Youth Council and is looking forward to working with her. Sue said during that the past year the Youth Council has helped guide the expansion of services throughout the state, explaining that there are now 12 Youth Centers throughout Greater Rhode Island serving more than 1,200 youth. She explained that this summer, WPGRI will provide 350 summer employment opportunities for youth and that 765 youth will receive component services.**

### **Board Development Committee**

**Paul Ouellette thanked the members of this committee for their dedication and hard work. He listed the Committee's accomplishments, including coordinating Board Presentations, recruiting and recommending thirteen nominations for Board appointments, coordinating two New Board Member Orientations, coordinating Board member engagement in the Governor's Workforce Board's Strategic Planning process, supporting Board education, and coordinating the Annual Meeting.**

### **Quality Assurance Committee**

**Mike Cassidy reported the activities of the committee and the performance challenges that faced the Board during the past year. He explained that changes underway at the One-Stop Career Centers include new partnerships, technology investments, establishment of a comprehensive Youth Center in Pawtucket and planned industry representation at the One-Stops through the Industry Skills Development Initiative.**

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**Citations were presented by Steven Kitchin on behalf of the Board and Sandra Powell on behalf of the Governor to retiring WPGRI Board Members Ernie Vergano, Fred Pendlebury, and Joe DesRoches.**

**Mike Cassidy, Quality Assurance Committee Chair presented the “Excellence in Leadership Award” to Marie DeRoche, manager of the Pawtucket netWORKri office.**

**With no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Kitchin called for a motion to adjourn.**

**VOTE: Pat Talin motioned to adjourn at approximately 9:30 AM. Paul Harden seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Gail DuPont**