

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 2009

Present: Steve Kitchin, Paul Ouillette, Pat Talin, Paul Harden, Michael Cassidy, Cynthia Farrell, Evaristo Amaral, Vanessa Cooley, Bob Cooper, Joseph DeSantis, Peter Koch, Diane Cook, Alexis Devine, Joseph DiPina, Dorothy Mattiello, Susan O'Donnell, Raymond Pingitore, Betty Pleacher, Nancy Roderick, Scott Seaback, Steven Wilson

Guests: Dave Francis, Elaina Goldstein, Donna Chaput, Thomas Fay, Mavis McGertrick

Staff: Christine Grieco, Carlos Ribeiro, Janice Lepizzera, Gail DuPont, Jen Cornwell, Sharon Geoffrey, Diane Vendetti, Lisa Rose

Absent: Allen Durand, Raymond Filippone, Jane Nugent, Fred Ricci, Andrew Tyska, Johan Uvin, Darrell Waldron, Kimberly Weiss

With a quorum present, Chair Steve Kitchin called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 AM and asked everyone to review the minutes from the previous meeting of February 10, 2009.

VOTE: Paul Harden moved to accept the minutes of the previous

meeting. Peter Koch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Steve met with Beverly Ruggieri, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Governor's office in March regarding implementation of points the governor should consider under the Stimulus Act. They discussed the federal bureaucracy surrounding the stimulus money and how it will affect implementation of programs using those funds.

Steve, Christine and Paul had attended the National Association of Workforce Boards Conference in Washington, DC in March. They attended informative meetings and also met with several of our elected officials or their staff. The meetings were very productive and the Conference provided many important insights about what is impacting the boards at this time, especially the challenges produced by the need to quickly and effectively put the stimulus money to use, obtaining maximum value.

Christine added that the Workforce Investment Conferences had been very good, there had been a very good Green Conference and a great deal of information had been gleaned from the larger conference overall. Paul added that there seems to be a more hopeful atmosphere. Many sessions reinforced that we are doing the right thing here in RI and he agreed with Steve that we are ahead of the curve in some respects.

They were also invited to attend Governor Carcierra's March 30th press conference on the Workforce Development portion of the stimulus package in which the governor announced the availability

of 17 million dollars focused on WIA and 4 million dollars focused on youth programs for this summer.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

In January an agreement modification was brought to the Board's attention regarding \$400,000 of corporate dollars going into the OneStop Centers to help serve more people, with \$160,000 going to WIA and \$240,000 going to Dislocated Workers. This has been approved by the Board on the finance side but the plan itself has not been modified yet.

VOTE: Bob Cooper made a motion to accept and modify the plan. Mike Cassidy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A draft of a one-year WIA plan has been mandated by the federal government for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. A few things will need to be changed. There are 8 vacancies to be filled on the Board. Seven candidates were sent up to the governor's office months ago for approval. Dave Tremblay has promised to move this along or seek help from Sandra Powell, if needed.

There is a ratio document for customized training that has to go to the Department of Employment & Training in Washington, DC. A policy for Needs Related Payment requires approval to be implemented by the Feds. Funds could be used to help individuals who have run out of unemployment insurance benefits and possibly

cover up to the full amount of their recent previous UI payment. Research is also being done about the ability to provide this service for youth. Conditional approval for these items in a draft is being requested of the Board.

There was discussion about vacancies on the Board, and a request was made to the staff to highlight all amendments to drafts. A request to correct an agency name to Office of Rehabilitation has been made. Care will be taken in going over the document and making any changes in the next 60 days.

VOTE: A motion was made to accept the document as a draft by Nancy Roderick. Betty Pleacher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee had one objection regarding the ARRA Corporate Youth Stimulus Funding Agreement using monies to prepare a youth video. The request to make the video has been withdrawn.

A request is being made to move monies from the corporate side into the state side. This will expedite hiring of 4 new staff members for the summer youth program. Each Youth Center has offered to provide space and telephones but laptop computers need to be purchased for the WPGRI Youth Monitors. There is hope of keeping the Youth manager, coordinator and administrative staff person through

December 31, 2009

VOTE: A motion was made by Joe DiPina to approve the document as submitted. Cynthia Farrell seconded. The motion then passed unanimously.

The staff of Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island was personally introduced. A request was made for an organizational chart of the staff. Steve asked that the Board recognize the double duty that has been done by many of the staff members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board Development Paul Ouellette reported that there is one item to vote on- a Youth Council member. Lee Lewis, CEO of Junior Achievement, was brought forward as a deserving nominee.

VOTE: Paul Ouellette put a motion forward for a vote to accept Lee Lewis as a member of the Youth Council. Steve reminded the Board that it is the prerogative of this body to appoint Youth Council members. The motion was seconded by Susan O'Donnell. The motion then passed unanimously.

Strategic Development Paul Harden referred to the CVS Pharmacy Call Center project in Woonsocket where they are working to recruit a staff of pharmacy technicians. WPGRI, WSPC, EDC, RIDLT, CCRI and

the Providence Skills Center are all working together to recruit candidates. Candidates are required to meet a minimum 12th grade reading and math skills requirement for training at CCRI and the Providence Skills Center. The length of classroom time has also been an obstacle for some potential hires. It is expected that there will be 100 new hires by early November, 2009. There is a 13 step hiring process involving the OneStop centers. Rate of pay is also an issue because it cannot be so high as to empty stores of present pharmacy techs but must be high enough to attract and keep new hires.

Youth Council Cynthia Farrell presented a spreadsheet involving contracts for Youth Workforce Services. Steve Kitchin recused himself from a possible vote. There is a request to fund Family Resources for a summer program funded with \$45,507 of leftover money. Paul Ouellette recused himself from a vote.

VOTE: Patricia Talin put a motion forward to fund Family Resources as requested. The motion was seconded by Dorothy Mattiello. The motion then passed unanimously.

Cynthia also spoke regarding the stimulus money for Youth programs. The deadline for proposals is April 20th with the timeline for reading these being April 22nd to May 1st so that the Board may vote on these proposals at the next meeting. Volunteers are needed to read proposals so that movement can happen quickly to get the stimulus money to the Youth programs as soon as possible. Joseph

DiPina, Steve Wilson and Nancy Roderick volunteered to read.

Quality Assurance Michael Cassidy reported that the Committee met on March 24th. The latest reports are included in the members' packets. The area showing failure at this time is the sector for adults going into jobs, because there are no jobs available. By the end of this fiscal year on 6/30/09 all numbers are expected to change and it is projected that everything will pass in every category due to the larger numbers of people who will be needing services.

There was Board discussion of the pass rate and what is expected by the Feds. The Youth numbers serviced were discussed and diploma equivalency explained. Nancy Roderick brought up a concern about the limited hours of the OneStop centers, especially Newport/Middletown. There was further discussion of how overburdened the OneStop Centers are and how hard their staff are working. Additional community physical resources are being utilized to fill the burgeoning needs of the OneStop centers in some places. Joseph DiPina offered excess resources of the Exeter Job Corps for use by the NetWorkRI offices.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to come before the board.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business brought before the board.

Steve Kitchin remarked that comments from the public are welcome at any time. The next meeting needs full attendance for voting on Youth contracts. It is also necessary to be more coordinated as a board for how we approach and use the Stimulus Funding dollars. The next meeting will be on May 12th, with voting items on the agenda.

VOTE: Paul Ouellette motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:09 AM. Joseph DiPina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rose

Administrative Assistant