

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD – RI

January 19, 2006 Meeting

MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members (*denotes absent)

Mario Bueno

Armeather Gibbs

Joseph MarcAurele

Michael McMahon

Sharon Moylan

George Nee

Robert Paniccia

Martin Trueb

Deborah Wilson

Mia Caetano

Paul MacDonald

William McGowan

Brandon Melton

Robert Nangle

Adelita Orefice*

Lorna Ricci

Jack Warner*

Staff: M. Koback, M. McGetrick, L. DelRossi, M. McDowell, Gail Theriault

Guests: S. Kitchin, P. Harden, J. Uvin, J. Durfee-Hidalgo, H. Shelton

DLT Staff: J. Severance, L. D'Agostino, K. Partington, J. O'Hare, S. Petrarca, D. Treglia, N. Olsen

Place: Department of Labor and Training

Time: With a quorum present, Chairman MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

A motion was entered to approve the December 8, 2005 Governor's Workforce Board Meeting minutes.

VOTE: W. McGowan moved to approve, A. Gibbs seconded. All approved.

Chair MarcAurele discussed the reassignment of members to other committees. He urged members to communicate with either himself or M. Koback where their interests lie. He informed members that some of the pre-scheduled board meeting dates may be changed to accommodate those members who cannot attend meetings on Thursday.

J. Severance gave the Executive Director's report on behalf of A. Orefice who was at a national conference. She stated that the Department of Labor and Training was currently working with the State Department of Administration to develop job specifications for the Executive Director position. She introduced Gail Theriault as the new Executive Legal Counsel to the Department of Labor and Training and to the Board, and provided some background information on her.

At this point, a motion was entered to appoint Michael McMahon as Vice Chairman of the Governor's Workforce Board.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved.

Chair MarcAurele next gave some background on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Consent Agenda included as a voting item. He explained that the WIA Two-Year Plans had already been approved by the Governor on July 1, 2005 in absence of this Board being seated. The Agenda is essentially informative of the Governor's action; however, the Board can opt to recommend amendments to the Plan. The WIA Policy Notices are issued in response to either statutory or regulatory requirements. The Board needs to approve the issuance to insure its compliance with WIA.

A motion was entered to approve the WIA Consent Agenda.

VOTE: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved.

Chair MarcAurele stated that some Board members expressed some confusion around the budget explanation and approval process at the last Board. Members were asked to review an updated budget explanation included in their folders. He stated that a new vote would clarify that the Board is approving the entire budget and not just the transfer of \$350,000 to the Workforce Expansion category. In terms of the grant review process, the Strategic Investment Committee will be meeting January 24, 2006 to develop a process that won't be onerous but will be fair and make sense.

A motion was entered to approve the budget and authorize the Strategic Investment Committee to establish a grant review and approval process.

VOTE: R. Paniccia moved to approve, seconded by L. Ricci. All approved

Chair S. Moylan reported out on the Governance Committee. Suggested changes have been incorporated into the draft bylaws. The members will review them at the next meeting on January 23rd. If they are approved, they will be sent to the full board for their comments.

A motion was entered to recommend approval of the following Standing Committees:

- Executive Committee (w/Audit)
- Strategic Investments
- Planning & Evaluation
- Adult Education
- Youth Development
- Board Development

VOTE: P. MacDonald moved to approve, seconded by D. Wilson. All approved.

Chair W. McGowan reported out on the netWORKri Restructuring Committee. He stated that the effort of this committee is to best serve the netWORKri clientele, noting that there have been numerous changes since its inception. A significant loss of staff has occurred at the six One Stop Centers. A third of the employees have left through attrition. Many of the original partners in the system are no longer participating. The technology is no longer state of the art and needs dramatic improvement. After reviewing information received from all six centers the consensus was to redesign the Woonsocket and West Warwick centers as DLT Re-employment Centers and close the Warren and Wakefield centers. He noted that there was also strong support to develop capacity for a re-employment center on Aquidneck Island. He commented on the current structural issues at the Warren center and added that hopefully, the resources of Warren and Wakefield could be used to beef up the other four centers. The reality is that all the six centers can't survive.

Chair W. McGowan spoke about the Governor's Executive Order and how the Workforce Cabinet might be engaged in the process of supporting the One Stops. For example, the Department of Human Services, in its workforce development role, should share office space within the One Stop Centers, thus saving overhead.

A motion was entered to recommend the closing of the Wakefield and Warren One Stop Centers.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved.

Chair M. Caetano reported out for the Local Workforce Boards Committee. This committee met last week to further discuss the consolidation options of the two workforce boards. However, it was determined that any consolidation would require consensus between the local workforce boards and the state. Forced elimination of a workforce board is specifically prohibited by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Given that the Providence/Cranston Workforce Board is unwilling to consolidate, discussions have been tabled until Providence/Cranston agrees or the law changes. In the meantime, the committee plans on meeting in a couple of months to discuss possible options for combining local WIB resources to better serve the public.

J. Uvin for Chair J. Warner reported out for the Adult Education and Literacy Committee. He informed members that at the next meeting of the committee, members will develop a list or recommendations for approval by the full Board.

Chair B. Melton reported out for the Youth Strategies Committee. On December 21st, a sub-committee of Youth Strategies met with key staff of the Department of Labor and Training to explore the possibility of the developing a Summer Youth Employment Program for 50 to 100 youth. The committee is looking at building partnerships among employers, high schools and community based organizations and plan to target key employers. There would be three main components of the Summer Youth Employment Program: paid internships/jobs; job readiness training; and career awareness education. Members are working to conduct a kick-off event to introduce the program and hope to

include the Governor along with a couple of CEOs, high schools, and some community based organizations. This would occur sometime in early March.

Chair Melton stated that the second area of focus was the creation of a Youth Development Office within the Department of Labor and Training. There isn't currently a central location for resources that could be available to employers, schools, and community agencies. A plan for this initiative is currently in the development stages.

The third area of focus for the committee members is to expand apprenticeship programs in the state. There are some 800 eligible apprenticeship programs available in the United States. Currently Rhode Island offers only 40 programs. L. Ricci asked about the percentage of students with disabilities and also if there has been outreach to the School of the Deaf. B. Melton responded that the committee would address those issues.

M. Koback then introduced Michael Nunnery from Nunnery O & P Technologies who gave a presentation on his company. The company has been a recipient of JDF and WIA training funds over the years. The company, which makes artificial prosthetic fittings, began ten years ago with no financing or equipment. The grants allowed him to receive the training that he needed and the ability to cross train his two employees in other areas. He provided a visual presentation of practical applications of the company's products. Mr. Nunnery stated that the company now has the capacity to service people in Rhode Island with prosthetic fittings, who in the past had to travel to other states.

M. Koback directed the Board's attention to the two News Releases; one announcing the 2006 Workforce Improvement Grant Program RFP and the Industry Partnership Grants RFP.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell