

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
March 21, 2013

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES NOT PRESENT)

Mario Bueno*	Juana Horton (S)	Robert Nangle (S)
Robin Coia	Constance A. Howes	George Nee
Ray DiPasquale (S)	Paul MacDonald*	Cathy Streker
Charles J. Fogarty (S)	William McGowan	Martin Trueb
Deborah Gist (S)	Brandon Melton	Pheamo Witcher
Mike Grey*	Sharon Moylan (S)	

(S) denotes State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) only

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff: Diane Gagne, Sean Fontes, Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Connie Parks, Sue Chomka, Laura Hart, Carlos Ribeiro; David Tremblay

Guests: Armeather Gibbs, Paul Harden, RIEDC; Andrea Castaneda, RIDE; Joy Spitulnik, RI Action Coalition/Lifespan; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Ruth Gobeillie, Harsha Prakash, RIMES; Michael Hogan, RI House; Robin Smith, CCRI; Heather Singleton, RI Hospitality; Irene Nedeljkovic, Economic Progress Institute; Mark Perrotti and Anne Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Andrew Bramson, Providence Plan; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Alejandro Hinton, CCRI; Liana Fenton; Gail Mance-Rios, RIHEAA; Manuela Raposo, Dorcas Place; Jill Holloway, Professional Development Center

See attachment for list of Innovative Partnership Grant Recipients in attendance.

Location: RI Department of Labor and Training, conference room 73-1

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Governor's Workforce Board meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on February 21, 2013.

VOTE on motion to approve: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. February 21, 2013 meeting minutes approved.

Greetings – Governor Lincoln D. Chafee

Governor Chafee welcomed everyone to the meeting. He spoke generally of the good work accomplished statewide with workforce development efforts. He commended the collaboration and partnerships being developed through this work. Governor Chafee mentioned that the unemployment numbers would be released today and that they looked promising. He emphasized the importance of closing the skills gap and of promoting and expanding internship opportunities. In particular, he spoke about a recent meeting with the RI Student Loan Association regarding loan forgiveness and developing internships.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes thanked the Governor for his support for workforce development efforts within the state, particularly with the Work Immersion Program. She provided an overview of the agenda. Chair Howes stated that the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee met last week and that there are several items up for a vote later in the meeting. She noted that the committee reviewed the FY2013 budget and proposed that any monies not spent should be allocated towards the Innovative Partnership grants. She indicated that a list of the proposed grantees is in the meeting packet.

Chair Howes mentioned that the Innovation Award would be presented at the May 16th annual meeting and that the board is seeking nominations for this award. She reported that the April board meeting will focus on K-12 education and adult education and that Commissioner Gist will be speaking about graduation requirements. This was suggested at the February board meeting.

Per Chair Howes' request, Sean Fontes, Executive Counsel, asked for declarations on any of the voting matters before the board for conflicts of interest. He explained that board members should avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest according to the RI State Code of Ethics. He stated that board members who disclose a conflict should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion. Brandon Melton and Chair Howes stated they would be abstaining from the votes for the Innovative Partnership grants for Rhode Island Hospital and UNAP (Stepping Up).

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide the Executive Director's report. R. Brooks reported that final contracts for the Jobs Initiatives program have been completed including Tunstall/AMAC, Building Futures, Local Workforce Investment Boards/Electric Boat. He mentioned that a one page description of the Defense Industry Partnership Jobs Initiative with Electric Boat is available in the meeting packet.

R. Brooks reported on the 2013 Express Grants noting that 25 companies to date have received grants. He noted that the March 2013 listing of Express Grants is available in the meeting packets.

R. Brooks reported on a recent meeting with the RI Student Loan Association noting the Governor and 25 representatives were in attendance. He stated that the representatives were from college career centers throughout the state and that they are ready to implement the Governor's proposal for temporary employment for internships and non-traditional apprenticeship programs.

R. Brooks mentioned recent speaking engagements including the Make It Happen 6 month update meeting, the RI Commodores and House Labor and Finance Committees.

He concluded his report by mentioning that the interviews for the Chief of Operations position in the GWB will be completed by the end of the week.

Financial Report

Chair Howes asked Diane Gagne to present the GWB Financial Analysis report. D. Gagne reviewed the adjustment column relating to FY2013 funding availability, budgeted expenditures and total external expenditures. She explained the planned/anticipated carryover of \$874,006 noting that these are the unobligated funds that the board will be voting on today.

There were questions and discussion about the 10% Indirect Cost Recovery, the DOR/Employer Tax Unit costs, DLT Internal costs, COPS Debt Service and DOA centralization costs. George Nee advocated that this is the year to get rid of the indirect cost recovery and some of the other indirect costs from the Job Development Fund (JDF). He also spoke about the DOA centralization costs noting that the theory behind this is flawed and that the \$116,000 of planned expenditures for FY2013 could be utilized to support workforce development programs. D. Gagne reviewed the history behind the centralization costs noting this was created by Executive Order under Governor Carcieri's administration. She explained the shared Department of Administration costs statewide for information technology, human resources and facilities

management. Several board members agreed with G. Nee's assertion about the indirect costs. R. Nangle stated that business agrees with the better usage of JDF. B. Melton stated he is in support of G. Nee's comments. Chair Howes commented that she preferred to utilize JDF for its true purposes. D. Gagne mentioned that there is a bill in the house to add the entire JDF to an exemption list for the indirect cost recovery funds. The house bill number was not readily available.

Committee Chair Reports

Strategic Investment & Evaluation Committee Report

Chair Howes asked William McGowan to report on the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting held on March 13th. W. McGowan indicated that the board would be voting on the funding recommendations from the committee and provided background information on the proposed FY2013 and FY2014 investments. He stated that the committee was provided with a detailed presentation both on the budget and on the funding items. He reported that \$1.4M was appropriated in the budget for FY13 for the Innovative Partnership grants. He stated that in order to fund additional awards, it was recommended that \$874,000 in unobligated funds be allocated to the partnership grants. He asked Robin Coia, Chair of the Youth Committee to comment on the FY2014 funding for youth. R. Coia spoke about the importance of supporting the youth centers and the summer employment program.

W. McGowan asked the board to refer to the hand-out detailing the information for the Innovative Partnership grant awards. He indicated that the first motion will address the unobligated funds from FY2013. He also indicated that the Innovative Partnership grant awards will be voted on in two separate motions. One motion will be for those grants where there are recusals. The other motion will be for all of the other grants. Chair Howes explained that the grants that are up for a vote are the highest ranking scores. She stated the board is not able to fund any additional grants since there is no funding available at this time.

Additional FY2013 Investments

Motion: That the Governor's Workforce Board invests unobligated FY2013 funds as follows: \$570,876 for Innovative Partnership Grants and \$303,130 for Summer Youth Employment.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Governor's Workforce Board unobligated FY2013 funds. All approved. Unobligated FY2013 funds for Innovative Partnership Grants and Summer Youth Employment approved.

Innovative Partnership Grant Awards

Motion: That the Governor's Workforce Board approves funding for Innovative Partnership grants as recommended by the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee excluding RI Hospital and UNAP (Stepping Up) due to recusals.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Governor's Workforce Board funding for Innovative Partnership Grants as recommended. All approved. Innovative Partnership Grants (excluding RI Hospital and UNAP) approved.

Before the next vote was taken there was discussion on the partnership grants. R. Coia noted that the OpenDoors proposal addresses progress made in workforce development efforts for ex offenders. She noted this issue was mentioned in a previous board meeting by Paul MacDonald. D. Gist commented that she would want to see the goals attributed to each grantee along with a report on the outcomes of each investment. She stated that when the results are formulated, the board should use this information for future funding. B. Melton suggested a score card could be created based on the goals and objectives of the biennial plan and could be used as a measure for the Innovative Partnership grants. R. Brooks stated that outcomes both quantitative and qualitative are requirements of the RFP.

Motion: That the Governor's Workforce Board approves funding for Innovative Partnership grants for RI Hospital and UNAP/Stepping Up. Chair Howes and Brandon Melton abstained from the vote due to their affiliation with these organizations.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by R. Coia. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Governor's Workforce Board funding for Innovative Partnership Grants for RI Hospital and UNAP/Stepping. All others except for those recused approved. Innovative Partnership Grants for RI Hospital and UNAP approved.

Proposed FY2014 Investments

W. McGowan referred to the hand-out entitled "Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee recommendations for additional FY2013 investments and proposed FY2014 investments". He explained that the funding amount before the vote is listed on the right hand side of the handout and totals \$9.4M for the FY14 planned expenditures. He noted this does not include any additional funds from the Governor or General Assembly.

Motion: That the Governor's Workforce Board approves FY2014 planned expenditures as recommended by the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by P. Witcher. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Governor's Workforce Board funding for FY2014 planned expenditures. All approved. FY2014 Planned expenditures in the amount of \$9.4M approved.

Employer Committee

Chair Howes asked Martin Trueb to report on the Employer Committee. M. Trueb reported that the first meeting of the Employer Advisory Group was held and was well attended. He mentioned the three key areas to be addressed with employers including skills gaps, workforce readiness and connecting and supporting career and technical training. It was mentioned that Commissioner Gist will be present at the next Employer Advisory Group to discuss ways in which RIDE is working to address the workforce challenges that face RI businesses.

Presentations by Innovative Partnership awardees

Chair Howes provided an overview of the Innovative Partnership Grant awards noting the collaboration, diversity of fields, target population and proposed outcomes. She thanked the readers and staff for their work. She mentioned there were many other worthy proposals but there was no further funding available. She stated that a speaker from each of the organizations would provide a two minute review of the grant proposal and asked Elizabeth Jardine to introduce each speaker. The organizations included: Amos House, Rhode Island Hospital, Marine Trades Association, Connecting for Children and Families, New England Tech., Saint Antoine Residence, Tech Collective, OpenDoors, UNAP (Stepping Up), and the Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center.

D. Gist referred to a hand-out in the board packet about the Rhode Island Diploma System. She indicated there would be more information about the graduation requirements at the April board meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney

*GWB Board Meeting
3-21-13*