

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND

April 18, 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, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

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

Guests: Paul Harden, RIEDC; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Liana Fenton; Michael Hogan, RI House- Policy; Irene Nedeljkovic, Economic Progress Institute; Mark Perrotti, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Liana Fenton; Manuela Raposo, Dorcas Place; Philip Less, Andrea Castaneda, Marilyn Matzko, Cali Cornell, RIDE; Connie McGreavy; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Michael Rooney, Governor's Office, Jen Cornwell, RIMTA; Mark Gray, Ocean State Action; Faith Orabona, NELLMCT; Janet Raymond, Greater RI Chamber of Commerce;

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

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 March 21, 2013.

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

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

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes welcomed Governor Chafee to the meeting and asked him to say a few words. Governor Chafee spoke about the recent decrease in the unemployment rate from 9.8% to 9.4% and mentioned that recent workforce initiatives are making a difference. Chair Howes reminded the board of the upcoming annual meeting to be held on May 16th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. She noted this is a celebratory event and that many stakeholders have been invited.

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.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide the Executive Director's report. R. Brooks reported that the RFP for the FY14 Incumbent Worker Training Grants was released on April 8th and that up to \$1.1M in funding would be available to businesses. He stated that employers can apply for up to \$40,000 in matching funds for training. R. Brooks provided an overview of the timeline for the grant program. He spoke about the Express grants noting that a list of recently approved grants is in the meeting packet. He mentioned the good media coverage for the recent Innovative Partnership grants and thanked Laura Hart for her work on this. R. Brooks reported on the recent hiring at Tunstall and that the company will bring 250-300 jobs to RI. He attributed the important partnerships with Tunstall, the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) and the Community College of RI (CCRI) as a key factor in the success of this company in locating in RI.

Update: Governor's Work Immersion Program

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the Governor's Work Immersion Program. R. Brooks mentioned the \$3M in proposed funding to support temporary, paid work experiences for post-secondary school students and unemployed adults. He spoke about the non-trade apprenticeship program and competitive funding which could be awarded annually to support the creation of at least one new initiative proposed and operated by the GWB Industry Partnerships. R. Brooks stated if the funding for this program is approved by the legislature, an RFP will be ready to go to implement the programs. He mentioned collaboration with the Industry Partners, college career centers, and the Local Workforce Investments Boards as key components of the success of this program.

Committee Chair Report

Strategic Investment & Evaluation Committee Report

Chair Howes asked William McGowan to report on the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting held on April 3rd. W. McGowan reported that the committee reviewed several Workforce Investment Notices (WINs) and a presentation on the Biennial Plan report card. He stated there was a discussion on recommendations for the Incumbent Worker Training grants both the annual and express grants.

W. McGowan reported there was a discussion and a recommendation for the recipient of the GWB Innovation Award. He indicated that the committee recommended the award be given to Building Futures for their work in the construction industry and in creating career opportunities for low-income residents in registered apprenticeship programs.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda of the State Workforce Investment Board.

VOTE on motion to approve: C. Streker moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the consent agenda of the State Workforce Investment Board. All approved. Consent agenda approved.

RIDE Presentations

Adult Education State Plan

Chair Howes asked Phillip Less of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to provide information on the Adult Education State Plan extension. P. Less reported that RIDE must submit a state plan extension for adult education since the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 expired in 2003 and has not been reauthorized. He noted the extension is for a one-year period. P. Less reviewed several components of the plan which included the performance measures to be negotiated for the next year. He reported that all of the performance targets for 2013-2014 are at or above the national average except for the adult secondary education performance level. He noted it is their hope to bring this performance level up to the national average next year. There were general questions and discussion on the state plan.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the Adult Education State Plan.

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

VOTE to approve the Adult Education State Plan. All approved. Adult Education State Plan approved.

Rhode Island Diploma System

Chair Howes asked Commissioner Deborah Gist to present information on the Rhode Island Diploma System. There was a brief video which was played at the beginning of the PowerPoint presentation. D. Gist spoke about remedial education needed for 75% of high school graduates before entering the Community College of RI (CCRI) and other post secondary statistics. D. Gist provided an overview of the graduation requirements including coursework, and performance-based and state assessment. She explained the multiple opportunities for those students who scored below partial proficiency. Several examples of problems represented on the various tests for the students were provided. The Commissioner spoke about additional support offered to the student who did not make adequate proficiency levels.

Adjournment

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney