

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
February 20, 2014

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES NOT PRESENT)

Mario Bueno*	Mike Grey	George Nee
Timothy Byrne	Juana Horton (S)*	Robert Nangle (S)
Robin Coia*	Constance A. Howes	Manuela Raposo
Charles J. Fogarty(S)*	Paul MacDonald*	Cathy Streker*
Deborah Gist(S)*	Cheryl Merchant	Martin Trueb
Clark Greene (S)	Sharon Moylan (S)	

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

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Amelia Roberts, Hillary Feeney

DLT Staff: Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally, Bob Garofano, Matt Weldon, Connie Parks, Carlos Ribeiro, Chris Tanguay

Guests: Steve Kitchin, Fred Santaniello, Robert Palumbo, Kathy Partington, Nicholas Pepere, NEIT; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Cheryl Dacosta, Chelsea Shaw, Chris Selwyn, Tech Collective; Michael Hogan, RI House Policy; Robert Kalaskowski, Senate Policy Office; Ruth Gobeille, RIMES; Wendy Mackie, RIMTA; Joseph Agosu, Atrion; Irena Nedeljkovic, EPI; Anne Walsh, WSPC; Paul Harden, RI Commerce Corp; Janet Raymond, GPCC; Holly Ashton, IYRS; Karen Bradbury, Senator Whitehouse Office; Liana Ferreira Fenton, Middletown; Mark Perrotti, WSPC

Location: New England Institute of Technology, 2480 Post Road, Warwick 02886 (Hall of Fame Room)

Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. She introduced Steve Kitchin, Vice President of Corporate Education and Training, who welcomed everyone and provided background information on New England Institute of Technology (NEIT).

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on January 16, 2014.

VOTE: S. Moylan moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes announced the agenda items that would be discussed, noting that E. Jardine will be presenting on the progress of the Biennial Plan. She highlighted the increased activity and focus on workforce development across the state through the Rhode to Work plan, announced by the Senate earlier in the year, which envisioned a greater role of the Governor's Workforce

Board. She indicated that the plan also aimed to eliminate the Indirect Cost Recovery to allow for more funds to be applied directly to workforce development. Chair Howes discussed the Governor's budget and additional appropriation from the General Revenue as recognition of the importance of workforce development. She reminded the Board of the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 15, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Chair Howes mentioned Rick Brooks' op-ed published in the Providence Journal on February 17, 2014 discussing the training component of employer partnerships and involvement with colleges and universities to provide students with work experiences that prepare them to join the workforce.

Per Chair Howes' request, Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally asked for declarations on any of the voting matters before the board for conflicts of interest. She explained that board members should avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest according to the RI State Code of Ethics and Governor's Workforce Board By-Laws. She stated that board members who disclose a conflict should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion.

Committee Chair Reports

Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee

Chair Howes asked Mike Grey to provide an update on the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee. M. Grey reported on the agenda items of the January 16, 2014 meeting, highlighting the outcome reports and updates, performance systems discussion, and second round of FY14 Incumbent Worker Training Grants. He discussed the FY15 Youth funding request and the FY14 Tech-Collective Jobs Initiatives proposal to fund the IT Fellowship Program.

Consent Agenda – Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC)

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston FY15 funding request of \$1,500,000 to support the summer youth work experience program and \$500,000 to continue to operate the YouthWORKS411 Centers.
2. Tech-Collective FY14 Jobs Initiative funding request of \$103,265.17 to support the IT Graduate Fellowship Program.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on GWB program, policy, and planning activities. R. Brooks reported that as of February 18, 2014, a total of 103 proposals were received for a total of \$2.2 million in funding requests. He noted at the next Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee meeting, the conversation will primarily focus on how to address proposals that are not being funded with FY14 funds and whether to contract with additional employers by using FY15 funds. Chair Howes inquired about the type of outreach that was used to increase interest. R. Brooks indicated that online marketing such as Go Local Providence, the RI Small Business Journal and expanding GWB's electronic newsletter email contact database has increased awareness of the funding opportunity. He added that the liberalization of the proposal criteria could have also encouraged more businesses to apply. R. Brooks reported that 12 businesses who are currently being funded have applied for the next round of Incumbent Worker Training Grants. M. Trueb and C. Merchant discussed how the

timing of the second round of grants could have allowed for additional companies to apply. S. Moylan requested an industry analysis asked if there were any new companies from emerging industries. R. Brooks recognized the outreach by the Business Workforce Center to help publicize the opportunity to local businesses. He further discussed the Innovative Partnership Grantees, highlighting the current total employer partners (155) and reported another RFP will be reissued for FY15. R. Brooks reported the largest Jobs Initiatives category, Tunstall/AMAC, is ahead of their hiring target, with 212 unemployed Rhode Islanders hired so far.

R. Brooks stated over 60 college students and 8 unemployed Rhode Islanders, and 45 companies are participating in the Work Immersion Program. He announced, Incumbent Worker Training Grant proposal readers are being trained on February 20th and 21st and anyone interested in participating, should attend the training. R. Brooks stated that the GWB is working closely with the Office of Management and Budget who has a similar interest in the impact of state and federal workforce funds. He reported that the GWB is looking at the prospect of expanding the GWB data system to better track JDF investments and other state and federal workforce investment dollars to better account and track the impact of investments. He noted the Industry Partnership Evaluation will be reported on at the next Board meeting.

GWB Quarterly Report (JDF and Biennial Plan)

Chair Howes asked E. Jardine to provide an update on JDF investments, expenditures, and how programs are performing across the year. E. Jardine discussed establishing measures for direct and indirect investments. She referred to the Quarterly Performance Summary and highlighted the progress to date of expenditures, employer partners, number of individuals trained, work experiences, and job placements of GWB programs. E. Jardine highlighted programs that are meeting or exceeding their targets, such as the Innovative Partnership Grants, and programs that have some areas of concern (i.e. Industry Partnership Jobs Initiative Training expenditures). She noted that some of the investments have well defined targets and other long-standing programs will be establishing baselines this year. Chair Howes asked about the lag in payments for the Work Immersion reimbursements. E. Jardine explained the process of issuing payments for the retention bonuses and modifying contracts.

E. Jardine referred to the FY14 Q2 Biennial Plan Scorecard and discussed the Biennial Plan priorities of workforce development across the state. She discussed the total employer partnerships (767), work readiness participants (1,950), and work readiness credentials (12). E. Jardine noted that in Q2, around 40,000 individuals accessed some type of DLT service, and of those, 18,796 were placed in a job through the public workforce system. The Board further discussed month-to-month comparisons of employment information (i.e. unemployment rate). E. Jardine referred to the Innovative Partnership Grant spreadsheet and highlighted the total FY14 allocation (\$1,888,044), targets and progress of the number of job placements and individuals served for each program.

Innovative Partnership Grant Presentations

Tech-Collective

E. Jardine introduced Cheryl Dacosta, Senior Manager of Workforce Development at Tech-Collective. Cheryl Dacosta provided background information on the IT OnDemand program, including the program design, highlights, and outcomes as of February 2014. She noted that 15 employer partners were involved in the design and implementation of the program. She reported of the 16 participants enrolled in the last IT OnDemand class, all of the participants completed the program, 11 were placed in internships, and 5 were directly hired by employers after training. Cheryl Dacosta introduced Joseph Agosu, a recent program participant. J. Agosu

discussed his experience in the program, noting that he developed the soft skills necessary to interact with clients and fellow employees. J. Agosu was hired by Atrion right after completing his VMware training.

New England Institute of Technology

E. Jardine introduced Robert Palumbo, Director of the Shipbuilding and Advanced Manufacturing Institute (SAMI). R. Palumbo discussed the phases of the SAMI program and progress of the SAMI Welding and Machine Programs. He introduced Nicholas Lepere, a SAMI program participant. N. Lepere discussed his experience in the program and types of training he participated in throughout the process.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: M. Trueb moved to approve, seconded by M. Grey. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts