

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
March 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	Cathy Streker
Charles J. Fogarty(S)	Paul MacDonald	Martin Trueb
Deborah Gist(S)	Cheryl Merchant*	
Clark Greene (S)	Sharon Moylan (S)	

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

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Dan Brown, Amelia Roberts, Hillary Feeney

DLT Staff: Sean Fontes, Scott Greco, Pat Pelletier, Angelo Dafonseca, Sue Chomka, Diane Gagne,

Guests: Cheryl Dacosta, Tech Collective; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Ruth Gobeille, RIMES; Irena Nedeljkovic, EPI; Anne Walsh, WSPC; Robin Smith, CCRI; Robert Kalaskowski, Senate Policy Office; Holly Ashton, IYRS; Dr. Philip Less, Andrea Castaneda, RIDE; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Alexis Devine, Lifespan; Sol Rodriguez, Nick Horton, Ronell Reyes, OpenDoors; Elizabeth Justin, STAT

Location: Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-1

Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the 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 20, 2014.

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

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 and Governor's Workforce Board By-Laws. He stated that board members who disclose a conflict should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes officially welcomed Clark Greene as the newest Board member, representing the Office of Higher Education. She reported that Manuela Raposo accepted a new position and is unable to serve on the Board as a representative of a Community Based Organization. Chair Howes discussed the difficulty to meet quorum for certain committees and stressed to the Board members the importance of attending meetings. She announced the Annual Meeting will be

taking place on May 15, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, and discussed the theme, highlights, and video to be presented.

Committee Chair Reports

Employer Committee

Chair Howes asked Martin Trueb to provide an update on the Employer Committee. M. Trueb reported the primary focus of the March 7, 2014 meeting was to discuss the agenda items for the upcoming Employer Advisory Group (EAG) meeting on April 11, 2014. He indicated the continuing focus on talent acquisition will be featured in the panel discussion at the EAG meeting. M. Trueb reported the panel members will share their experience in the hiring process to create a dialogue and determine what the workforce development system can do in terms of preparing people to be successful members of the workforce. The Board discussed the aging workforce in many industries. T. Byrne noted that the average age of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitter members is 49.4 and also highlighted the disconnect between high schools and the workforce system. Commissioner Gist discussed developing multiple pathways for students and identifying high-need, high-growth areas in the state and incorporating them within the development of new career and technical education regulations. The Board further discussed reassessing societal values and misconceptions in terms of secondary education.

Adult Education & Literacy Committee

Chair Howes asked Robert Nangle to provide an update on the Adult Education and Literacy Committee. R. Nangle reported the committee is currently in the process of determining the statewide cost of adult education, including expenditures by the local colleges and universities. He noted the committee spent some time discussing barriers of the new GED test and will be continuing the discussion at the next meeting. R. Nangle announced on April 18, 2014, adult education participants and employers will be participating in a two-part session of mock interviews and feedback discussion.

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 that were discussed at the March 13, 2014 meeting. He noted that committee voted on WIN Notices, FY14 Round 2 Incumbent Worker Training Grants, and FY15 investment categories. M. Grey further discussed the Industry Partnership Evaluation presentation given by 4ward Planning. He asked R. Brooks to provide more detail on the Incumbent Worker Training Grants. R. Brooks provided an overview of the applicant analysis and funding recommendations.

Consent Agenda – Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC)

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the following FY14 Round 2 Incumbent Worker Training Grant funding recommendations and FY15 investment categories:

1. Use FY14 IWTG reallocations to fund the top 34 applicants, totaling \$667,761, to begin April 1, 2014.
2. Use FY15 IWTG allocations to fund the next 34 applicants, totaling \$836,143, to begin July 1, 2014.
3. Fund additional three applicants, totaling \$82,700, subject to the availability of deobligated funds.

Incumbent Worker Training	\$800,000
Express Grants	\$250,000
Export Assistance	\$60,000
Capacity Building	\$100,000
Youth Strategies	\$1,500,000
Industry Partnership Grants	\$1,600,000
Jobs Initiative	\$750,000
Innovative Partnership Grants	\$1,200,000
RIDE	\$3,500,000

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Cathy Streker. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Chair Howes abstained from the vote pertaining to DiSanto, Priest & Co.

Consent Agenda – State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB)

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve WIN Notices 13-03: Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Performance Data System, and 13-04: Dislocated Worker Training National Emergency Grant Policies.

VOTE: Charles Fogarty moved to approve, seconded by Robert Nangle. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update of GWB programs, policy and planning, and partnerships. R. Brooks gave an overview of the FY14 Express Grants and Work Immersion Program. He announced the upcoming Requests for Proposals for Innovative Partnership Grants and the renewal of the Industry Partnerships. In regards to policy and planning, R. Brooks indicated the GWB is working with the Legislature, DLT, and the Governor’s Office on the proposed legislation included in the Senate’s Rhode to Work Report. He noted the yearly Unified Workforce Development Expenditure and Program Report will include data from three new agencies who receive workforce development funds including Department of Transportation, YouthBuild, and Job Corps. R. Brooks added the GWB is also working closely with the Office of Management and Budget to define state workforce investment reporting tools to better track how workforce dollars are being spent.

Adult Education State Plan Extension

Chair Howes asked Dr. Philip Less to discuss the Adult Education State Plan Extension. Dr. Less gave an overview of the process and changes and highlighted the new performance measures, adult education’s collaboration with DLT to serve TRADE Act clients, and leadership activities planned for next year. Chair Howes asked for a motion to approve the FY2014-2015 Adult Education State Plan Extension.

VOTE: Robert Nangle moved to approve, seconded by Charles Fogarty. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Mario Bueno abstained from the vote.

Innovative Partnership Grant Presentations

RI Hospital Workforce STAT program

R. Brooks introduced Alexis Devine, Youth Development Coordinator of the STAT program. A. Devine provided an overview of the program, highlighting the process of interviewing and

training participants. She discussed the work experience and work readiness training provided through the program, noting that 19 individuals graduated from the program. She introduced Elizabeth Justin, a recent program graduate. E. Justin spoke about the application process and her experience participating in the program. She highlighted the interpersonal, communication, and work readiness skills she gained through the program. The Board discussed barriers for participants such as childcare and transportation.

OpenDoors

R. Brooks introduced Sol Rodriguez, Executive Director, of the OpenDoors 9 Yards Innovative Partnership Program. Sol Rodriguez, gave an overview of the program and asked Nick Horton, Program Coordinator and Policy Specialist, to discuss the program details. N. Horton presented participant demographics, program implementation, and outcomes of the first program phase. He introduced Ronell Reyes to present his experience in the program. R. Reyes commended the program staff on the guidance and support they provided, noting that he is currently enrolled at CCRI. Nick Horton concluded with a documentary clip of the classroom training and thanked the GWB for their support.

Adjournment

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

VOTE:

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts