

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
April 17, 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, Dan Brown, Amelia Roberts, Hillary Feeney

DLT Staff: Sean Fontes, Sue Chomka, Scott Greco, Hector Rivera, David Tremblay

Guests: Cheryl Dacosta, Tech Collective; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Irena Nedeljkovic, EPI; Robin Smith, CCRI; Robert Kalaskowski, Senate Policy Office; Holly Ashton, IYRS; Dr. Philip Less, RIDE; Karen Bradbury, Senator Whitehouse's Office; Alaina Johnson, Randi Belhumeur, Amanda St. George, Stepping Up; Kathleen Kane, TEAMhelath; Barbara Suchite, Family & Resource; Robert Bromley, Senate Fiscal Office; Tim Harrigan, Andrew Bramson, Ryan Kelly; ProvPlan; Paul Harden; Commerce RI; Mark Perrotti, WSPC

Location: netWORKri, One Reservoir Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:10 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 March 20, 2014.

VOTE: Martin Trueb moved to approve, seconded by George Nee. 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 welcomed Governor Chafee to the meeting and asked him to say a few words. Governor Chafee thanked the Board for their work, discussed the recent Incumbent Worker Training Grant awards, and highlighted the \$1.7 million to be awarded this spring to support FY15 Innovative Partnership Grants.

Chair Howes noted the recent report published by the Center for Freedom and Prosperity targeting the Governor's Workforce Board and discussed the op-ed responses to the article submitted by some of the Industry Partnerships. Commissioner Gist thanked Rick Brooks for keeping the Board informed. Chair Howes reminded the Board of the upcoming Annual Meeting on May 15th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and asked Sue Chomka to briefly speak about the netWORKri Centers. S. Chomka discussed the workforce development activities that take place at the Centers such as recruitment, computer skills training, and connecting individuals who are unemployed with work and training opportunities.

Committee Chair Reports

Employer Committee (Employer Advisory Group)

Chair Howes asked Martin Trueb to discuss the feedback from the last Employer Advisory Group meeting. M. Trueb indicated the overall feedback was very positive and the main focus of the meeting was talent acquisition and how to successfully connect job seekers to employers. He noted the employer panel included representatives from different industries and asked Mike Grey and Robert Nangle to discuss the feedback from the meeting. M. Grey noted the panel discussion focused on how talented applicants are sourced and what challenges arise specific to the industries and positions available. He added the group also discussed how to better inform employers about the services that are available at the state level. R. Nangle highlighted the importance of marketing netWORKri services to RI businesses and making them aware of the programs and resources. D. Gist discussed the promotion and recognition of the workforce readiness credential. She indicated a status updated will be provided at the next Employer Advisory Group meeting.

Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee

Chair Howes asked Mike Grey to provide an update on the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee. M. Grey noted, at the April 3, 2014 meeting, the committee discussed the Innovative Partnership RFP pertaining to the timeline, structure, and evaluation of the proposals. He highlighted the Industry Partnership RFP sector discussion, specific to emerging industries and how to structure the RFP to identify new sectors that are not identified in the current program.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide updates on GWB programs, policy and planning, and partnerships. R. Brooks announced the departure of Elizabeth Jardine, former Chief of Program Development. Chair Howes asked for a motion to send a note of appreciation to Elizabeth Jardine for her creativity, energy and service to the Governor's Workforce Board.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Deborah Gist. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

R. Brooks indicated contracts are currently being implemented for the 68 companies awarded Incumbent Worker Training Grants. He discussed the Innovative Partnership RFP. G. Nee asked if all currently funded Innovative Partnerships attended the Pre-Proposal conference. R. Brooks noted most of them did, stating the GWB currently funds 10 Partnerships and about 40 additional organizations were represented at the conference.

R. Brooks discussed the Innovative Partnership and Industry Partnership Requests for Proposals noting that the Industry Partnership RFP will be released on Monday, April 21, 2014. He indicated the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee agreed to solicit proposals from the sectors that are currently funded, but will only support one entity for each sector. R.

Brooks added a new “wild card” sector will be solicited for an organization that sufficiently demonstrates the need for support as a new Industry Partner sector. He announced the Summer Youth Request for Proposals has been released which supports summer youth employment. R. Brooks reported the DLT and GWB are working closely with Electric Boat to develop a long-term institutionalized recruitment program. He further discussed the status of the GWB Express Grants, Work Immersion Program, UEP, and Biennial Plan process.

Rhode Island’s Young Adult Workforce: An Infographic Presented b the RI Longitudinal Data System

Chair Howes asked David Tremblay and Tim Harrigan, Policy and Information Specialist at Providence Plan, to provide an update on the RI Longitudinal Data System. D. Tremblay discussed the background and partnerships of the State Longitudinal Data System, highlighting the investments from the Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor. Tim Harrigan presented the Young Adult Workforce Infographic and discussed employment, education, teen motherhood, and voting statistics for RI’s young adults preparing for and entering into the workforce. The Board discussed what happens once the data is collected, the next steps, interagency coordination around the big questions, and policy decisions in reference to the LDS.

Innovative Partnership Grant Presentations

Passport to Practice, Stepping Up

Chair Howes asked Randi Belhumeur, Residency Coordinator of the Passport to Practice program to provide an overview of the Stepping Up Innovative Partnership program. R. Belhumeur described the program design, employer partners, and results. She introduced Amanda St. George, who described her experience in the program and discussed the type of training she received, including work readiness and resume writing skills. She reported she is currently working at Thundermist Health Center.

TEAMhealth, Saint Antoine Residence

Chair Howes asked Kathleen Kane, Project Director of TEAMhealth at Saint Antoine Residence, to provide a program overview. K. Kane described the details of the program, highlighting the team-building , budgeting, and conflict resolution training. She introduced Barbara Suchite, a CNA program participant to describe her experience. B. Suchite reported she is currently employed by Homefront Health Care, working 50-60 hours a week and really enjoys her new career.

Adjournment

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

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Robert Nangle.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts