

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (YDC)  
May 14, 2010**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** B. Melton, Chair, S. Powell, R. DiPasquale, S. Moylan, M. Trueb

**Members Absent:** R. Coia

**GWB Staff Present:** J. O'Hare, D. Brown, M. Mooney

**DLT Staff Present:** M. Palumbo, J. Thibedeau, Julie O'Connell

**Others Present:** R. Seitsinger, RIDE

Chair Melton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Minutes of Youth Development Committee meeting**

Chair Melton asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 4/5/10 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (GWBRI – YDC). He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**Vote:** R. DiPasquale motioned to approve the minutes of the GWBRI-YDC meeting as presented. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

**Youth Program Report**

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide the final Youth Program Report for PY2009. M. Palumbo referred to the hand-out entitled: YouthWORKS411 Statewide WIA/JDF Data Collection and indicated the reporting period was from 4/1/09 through 3/31/10. She reviewed the various categories for data collection and reported that 163% of the youth contracted were served. She noted that the demographics remain consistent and that the programs serve primarily 16-18 year olds. M. Palumbo mentioned that a continuing goal is to attract older out of school youth yet she noted there are challenges. She stated that the PUC (per- unit –cost) went down and explained that this is due to more youth being served than contracted. The handout is on file in the meeting packet.

**Program Information**

Chair Melton asked M. Palumbo to report on the Career/Tech, WIA and TANF summer programs.

**Career/Tech Summer Program**

M. Palumbo explained that the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI) had unexpended ARRA funds that could be used for youth programs. She indicated that with this funding in mind, Carlos Ribeiro of the WPGRI designed a program around career technical education targeting 14-16 year olds who were potential high school dropouts. M. Palumbo reported this program would utilize partnership schools including the Providence Career Tech Academy, Cranston Area Career Tech, Davies as well as schools in Warwick, Woonsocket and Newport. She noted this is a statewide effort and that both Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) would be working with these youth with the intent of providing drop out prevention, exposure to vocational study and training and work readiness skills.

Director Powell mentioned that this program provides an excellent opportunity to look at the longitudinal data to assess one of the efforts of the workforce system and to evaluate the outcomes. R. Seitsinger provided more information on the RIDE longitudinal study indicating that the basic concept is to identify every student early and to monitor progress over time. He indicated that the study would measure success and track students from the K-12 system and assist in determining those programs that have the highest impact. He noted that currently a key goal is the centralization of data from the various resources. He indicated that the small size of the state should promote this effort.

### WIA Summer Program

M. Palumbo reported that as of 5/13/10, the WIA summer program funding has not been approved and noted that it is very late to get a summer program running. Because of this, the LWIBs were instructed to issue an RFP based on last year's guidance and they are currently involved in the reading and rating process. She noted that 40 proposals were received totaling \$3.2M in requests and serving approximately 1,600 youth.

M. Palumbo reported on the Work Readiness Summer Camp which will be coordinated through the Community College of RI (CCRI) at several of their campus locations when the funding becomes available. She indicated that the summer camp program for youth is multi-faceted and will offer work readiness instruction, self assessment, vocational assessment, soft skills and financial literacy topics. She noted that the instruction will occur in a small classroom setting, is age appropriate and will expose the youth to the college environment.

### TANF- Youth

M. Palumbo handed out a flyer on the Jobs Now employer information sessions. She indicated that the older youth ages 18-24 will be served through this program along with adults through the netWORKri system. She reported that this program offers 100% employer reimbursement for wages of qualifying hires through September 30, 2010.

### World of Work (Wow) Pilot Report

M. Palumbo reported on the World of Work (WOW) pilot and indicated it is in the final stage. She stated that the program began with a pilot program at the New England Laborer's Construction Career Academy in Cranston. After the first year it was replicated in additional schools within the Cranston school district. In the pilot's third year it was replicated to three other school districts: Lincoln, Exeter/West Greenwich and Newport. The program is focused on embedding a work readiness curriculum into the high schools, has a job placement component and is a for credit course. M. Palumbo explained a successful component of the program was having a teacher in the classroom and a job developer in the field working to get jobs for the youth. She indicated that the final report for the pilot will be completed in August as the pilot was extended to incorporate summer employment placements. She stated these are unsubsidized jobs and that the pilot represents a connection with the private sector.

M. Palumbo reported that 247 youth were enrolled in this program statewide and that 159 students were placed in jobs. She noted that the group made over 668 job placement contacts. Successful strategies of the program included having a job developer in the field and finding the right environment for the program. For example, this curriculum worked well for some schools but was not rigorous enough for others. M. Palumbo indicated that the strategy of multiple pathways is an area of impending change for educational reform in the state and that work readiness will be an integral part of the high school curriculum as part of these reform efforts. She noted that the WOW pilot is a key step and that she welcomes the opportunity to present the concept and the results to Commissioner Gist. Roy Seitsinger offered additional comments on the importance of the embedded strategy which encourages youth to be ready for career and

work, noting that this is a design decision rather than a financial decision. M. Palumbo indicated that a full report will be available in August.

M. Palumbo provided a brief update on the Shared Youth Vision pilot project and noted they are working to recruit case managers and agencies to join this project. She noted that to date, there are 43 case managers and 23 partner organizations. This is a very successful pilot and an important collaboration of agencies working together and sharing information.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Chair Melton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the GWBRI-YDC.

**Vote:** M. Trueb motioned to adjourn the meeting of GWBRI-YDC. S. Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney