

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (YDC)  
October 4, 2010**

**Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** M. Trueb

**GWB Staff Present:** L. D'Agostino, N. Olson, D. Brown, M. Mooney

**DLT Staff Present:** M. Palumbo, J. Thibedeau, Frank Cerilli, C. Ribeiro, C. Grieco,  
S. Chomka, S. Carello

**Others Present:** R. Ricci, Providence/Cranston Workforce Solutions; T. Flaherty,  
The College Crusade

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 5/14/10 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (GWBRI – YDC). He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

**YouthWORKS411 – Youth System Update**

Chair Melton asked Maureen Palumbo to provide an update on the youth system. M. Palumbo reported on the ARRA funded Career Technical Summer Program which took place in 5 area schools. She stated that this program was based on a successful pilot that was implemented last summer at the Warwick Area Career & Tech Center. The program focused on youth at risk of dropping out, who were identified by their school guidance counselor. This program provided an opportunity to review several occupational areas of study in 14 career clusters. M. Palumbo stated that Carlos Ribeiro, Youth Coordinator for the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI) was responsible for the program design which focuses on drop out prevention. Students worked 20 hours per week for six weeks and earned \$7.40 per hour. M. Palumbo reported this program served 400 youth who were WIA eligible and utilized \$1M in ARRA funds. Schools with the highest drop out rates participated including Woonsocket, Providence, Cranston, Newport and Warwick. M. Palumbo shared slides of site visits to the schools and a news clip from Channel 10 with committee members.

**Funding Request: JDF Funding for Youth Centers FY12**

Chair Melton asked M. Palumbo to present the request for JDF funding for the Youth Centers for FY12. M. Palumbo stated that many of the youth programs that are implemented develop from the statewide youth center system. She explained the major contributing factors to the growth and success of the system which include adopting an all youth agenda and the collaboration of the two Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs). M. Palumbo stated that approval of the JDF funding would continue the operation of the youth centers for FY12 providing a continuous delivery of services.

Robert Ricci, Administrator for Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC), provided an overview of the federal funding model and an explanation of how the funding formula works. He spoke of how the unemployment rate and the child poverty rate affect the funding process. He suggested the possibility of using a regression model to consider poverty and other economic disadvantaged population issues. He reported that WSPC receives 1/3 of the funding requested today and asked both GWB and DLT to consider other formulas.

Chris Grieco, Executive Director of the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI) noted her support for the youth centers to continue their work. She explained that the WPGRI supplements the JDF funds with formula money for program support.

There were questions about formula funding and JDF funding which Nancy Olson addressed. She stated that the GWB transfers funds to both DLT and the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO). She explained that the SWIO makes decisions on the WIA formula and that the GWB would be the appropriate board to make decisions on establishing a different funding formula by means of its Strategic Investments Committee.

Director Powell further explained the two separate funding streams. She stated that the DLT Director is the WIA liaison and is responsible for the oversight of WIA funding. Regarding GWB, she clarified the dual membership of SWIO and the Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC) stating that any decisions on JDF funding are made through the 13 member HRIC. She stated that the federal formula has been in use by the state since it was enacted in 1999-2000, at which time it was decided to use the federal formula to disperse JDF funds. Director Powell indicated that the process for revising the current federal formula requires a great amount of deliberation. The other option would be to review the decision regarding the formula relating to the JDF.

A question was raised about the next step in the process for the votes before the YDC. Nancy Olson stated they are currently working on the FY12 budget and that the vote before the committee is a recommendation. The funding request will be brought to the Strategic Investments Committee and then the board. She stated that the vote today is based on the availability of funds and is a placeholder for FY12 and not guaranteed.

R. Di Pasquale inquired about the funding allocations for the past fiscal year. N. Olson reported that last year \$500,000 in JDF funds was approved to keep the youth centers operating, noting that JDF funding for youth has been as low as \$500,000 and as high as \$3M.

When R. Di Pasquale asked for more specific information in order to vote, M. Palumbo reviewed the handout entitled "Six Year Snapshot" and the statistics relating to the youth centers from PY2005 through PY2010. She stated that an RFP will be released in January in order to prepare for the summer program.

Director Powell explained the GWB decision of supporting all youth agenda. She noted that originally the youth program was 100% funded by WIA which had stringent requirements for eligibility. This meant that vendors could not reach out to those not WIA eligible, as youth had to be low income with 2 barriers to employment. The decision of the GWB to infuse JDF money into youth programs served more youth with all levels of need and in the end increased the number of youth served with barriers.

M. Palumbo mentioned the Jobs Now RI program and that it is through the RI Youth System infrastructure that additional youth programs are implemented. She stated that the Jobs Now RI program was a subsidized employment program which ended September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Funding Request: JDF Funding for Youth Centers FY 12**

Chair Melton asked if there was any further discussion on the funding request for the Youth Centers. He asked if there was a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$525,000 for FY12.

**Vote:** R. Coia motioned to approve the request for JDF funding in the amount of \$525,000 for FY12 for the youth centers. S. Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

**Funding Request: Summer Youth Program FY12**

Chair Melton asked if there was any further discussion on the funding request for the Summer Youth Program for FY12. He asked if there was a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.

**Vote:** R. Di Pasquale motioned to approve the funding for Summer Youth Program FY12 in the amount of \$1,500,000. R. Coia seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

**Other Business**

M. Palumbo mentioned there will be a presentation at October board meeting on the Statewide Youth System. She reported that the third round of the BEST youth workers training is ongoing.

**Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney