

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2006**

MINUTES

Members Present: Joseph MarcAurele, Brandon Melton, Sharon Moylan, Adelita Orefice, Jack Warner

Members Absent: Mia Caetano, William McGowan

Staff Present: Mike Koback, Mavis McGetrick, Marsha McDowell

Location: RI Department of Labor and Training

With a quorum present, Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting.

VOTE: A. Orefice moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved.

M. Koback was asked to comment on the idea of conducting a Strategic Planning Retreat for Board members to discuss labor market information, the current status of the state's workforce, what systems are involved, who are the players, and plotting out the direction the Board needs to take. Subsequent to this, the Board had also talked about the feasibility of developing a unified Job Training Plan that would encompass those State agencies that receive workforce development funds. The USDOL is very supportive of this venture along with the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, which is made up of various State department directors.

Discussed was the possibility of issuing a joint Request For Proposal (RFP) to include two parts to it, one would be the strategic planning piece and the other piece would involve a facilitator to help craft the Job Training Plan. Different states were contacted to find out what their processes were and several examples of RFPs and Job Training Plans were received. The RFP has been crafted and is presently being fine tuned for submittal as a draft to the Governor's Workforce Cabinet (GWC) for their comments. S. Moylan asked what the difference was between the Governor's Workforce Cabinet and the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB). A. Orefice stated that her analogy to the private sector would be to look at the GWB as a Board of Directors that sets strategy for workforce development and the Cabinet as its senior staff.

The members discussed convening the Board Development Committee to focus on important issues for the Board Retreat. Also suggested was to put together a two hour meeting over lunch with bullet points listing the rudimentary

responsibilities of the Board to spark interest and then organize a half-day event with a facilitator to brainstorm.

Ms. Orefice reported on the Workforce Cabinet meeting held in July. Among the number of issues discussed was the Youth Forum group, a team of people who work specifically on disadvantaged youth issues. The national team includes representatives from the different Federal departments dealing with youth issues. Rhode Island was one of 16 states in the country to be selected to receive technical assistance from the Federal government. A team of staff will be sent to a Youth Forum Conference in Atlanta, GA in September.

Johan Uvin gave a presentation on the Work Readiness Credential. A number of questions were raised in terms of the need for such a credential, would businesses accept it, will it focus on certain populations, the potential of stigmatizing recipients, etc. As a result, further discussion is needed. The next issue to be discussed by the Workforce Cabinet was the netWORKri One-Stop Centers. The information disseminated to the Cabinet members included draft recommendations for streamlining the system. A. Orefice is waiting for feedback from the Workforce Cabinet.

The Cabinet also discussed TANF's Welfare-to-Work Program operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) in terms of how the Cabinet can help the program meet its requirements by of partnering with Education, DLT, and other agencies dealing with workforce development issues.

M. Koback addressed the next agenda item, the Proposed Modification of the Grant Awards Process under the Workforce Expansion category that would provide for timely approval of projects. Initially, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) staff would meet with the company to develop a proposal and prepare a summary with a funding recommendation. The summary would be sent to the Strategic Investment Committee members for comment. A committee comprised of GWB/DLT staff would meet to review proposal and determine funding. The agenda would be posted on the Secretary of State's website. Staff approval would not exceed \$100,000.

A motion was entered to endorse the Modified Grant Award Process.

VOTE: J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All approved.

The next agenda item addressed was the Industry Partnerships. The second round of RFPs has been issued through the Governor's Workforce Board. It is hoped that GWB will receive applications from the high growth industries such as Construction, Financial Services, Hospitality & Tourism and the Biotechnology as identified by the Labor Market Information office. A. Orefice stated that these Industry Partnerships could be used as a very powerful tool to connect more

closely to the needs of a particular industry as well as to the needs of a particular company.

M. Koback reported on the Workforce Innovations Conference. A few months ago, the United Way spearheaded a brainstorming meeting, comprised of representatives of different agencies including the GWB, to put together a Workforce Innovations Conference that would showcase best practices in all areas of workforce development. He stated that the focus of the meeting was headed in the direction of welfare/poverty recipient issues, jobs for that population instead of focusing on all populations. Consensus of the Committee was to let the United Way run this conference without the Board's involvement.

The FY'06 Budget was discussed. M. Koback reported on the status of the budget. The total available funds are \$12,525,435. \$8,730,106 is obligated, leaving a carry-in of \$3,795,329 into FY'07. Add the carry-in to the \$11,660,000 available for FY07 brings the total available funds to \$15,455,329 with \$5,184,330 obligated leaving a balance of \$10,270,999.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds available for PY'06 total \$8.4 million categorized by Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Workers funding streams.

With no other business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell