



Today's Vision... Tomorrow's Opportunity.

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 9, 2015

Committee Members Present: Constance Howes, Robin Coia, Martin Trueb, Mike Grey, Monica Dzialo
Other Board Members Present: Mario Bueno
GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, Amelia Roberts, Dan Brown, David Tremblay
DLT Staff Present: Sean Fontes, Robert Kalaskowski
Other Guests Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Sharon Lee, Philip Less, RIDE; JoAnn Johnson, Tech-Collective
Location: RI DLT, Conference room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Howes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015 Executive Committee meeting.

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

Board Membership and Committee Assignments

Chair Howes noted that an Orientation meeting with Steve Kitchin, Janet Raymond, Nina Pande, and Susan Rittscher took place to provide background information to the new members on the Governor's Workforce Board structure and activities and to discuss committee assignments. She noted Orientation meetings for Stefan Pryor and Suzanna Alba are in the process of being scheduled. Chair Howes stated the newest members have not been confirmed by the Senate yet. She added Susan Rittscher has been appointed as the Chair of the Adult Education and Literacy Committee and will serve in that capacity upon the Senate's approval.

GWB Planning and Policy Updates

GWB/SWIO Staff Integration

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to discuss the staff reorganization in response to the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. He provided an overview of the current staff positions. R. Brooks noted there are currently two vacant Coordinator positions and a Chief of Program Development position that was formally held by Robert Kalaskowski of RJRI. He stated the staff will be reorganized into functional teams according to the scope of federal and state responsibilities of the Governor's Workforce Board. D. Tremblay elaborated on the functions of the working teams, discussing the purpose of the teams to introduce and cross-train staff on functions they normally would not be involved in. From the perspective of the Board, Chair Howes noted members have lacked connection to the federal funding component of the Board's function in the past. Mike Grey noted the timing of the integration in relation to the new administration and commended the commitment for taking on such a large-scale transition.

Comprehensive System Improvement Plan

Due in November 2015, R. Brooks announced a Request for Proposals was issued in February 2015 and four strong proposals were received to develop a plan that provides a detailed analysis of the current workforce development delivery system to identify strengths, inefficiencies, and whether it is serving the needs of businesses and individuals effectively. R. Brooks noted the RI Foundation is co-funding the development of the plan, adding that one of the main deliverables of the project is to catalog, analyze, review and provide a visual depiction of all of the workforce development activities in the state. Based on the analysis, the plan will include recommendations of how we can better organize the workforce development system, providers, and stakeholders. Chair Howes inquired about the selection process. R. Brooks stated that he, David Tremblay, Jessica David from the RI Foundation, and Deputy Director of the DLT, Lisa D'Agostino will be the review team.

WIOA Implementation

D. Tremblay provided an update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. He reviewed the strategic functions, system capacity building, and systems alignment and effective operations responsibilities of the Board in response to implementation of WIOA. He discussed the challenges with aligning and managing Federal and State planning requirements. In order to avoid producing overlapping and repetitive plans, R. Brooks mentioned the possibility of producing the WIOA plan every four years, as required, and submitting the state mandated Biennial Plan for the interim two years to serve as an update of the four-year plan. He stated state legislation will need to be update to allow for the proposed changes. In response to many of the federal requirements, D. Tremblay recommended creating working groups to drive the implementation of WIOA in the short-run. In terms of resources, D. Tremblay noted the ETA has allowed the state to use \$118,000 in PY14 WIA funds to support the implementation, such as enlisting the legal department to review and advise working groups in accordance with the new WIOA laws.

Adult Education State Plan Extension

Chair Howes asked Dr. Philip Less to review the Adult Education State Plan Extension. Referring to the Summary of Changes handout, P. Less provided a brief overview of the Adult Education State Plan; stating 12 State Plan Extensions have been written since 2003 under WIA. Unlike others that were one year extensions of the current plan, the 2015-2016 extension is a transition plan for the newly enacted WIOA. P. Less indicated the narrative and assurances have been signed by the Commissioner and submitted on March 31, 2015. He reviewed the different sections of the Plan and significant changes including: updates to the needs statement with the most current US Census Data (113,000 adults 18 and older who do not have a HS Diploma), revisions to section 4 to include language that emphasizes tying education to occupational skills training, and updates to performance measures. Chair Howes inquired about the proposed levels of performance. P. Less described how the increase in Educational Functioning Level is determined, noting Rhode Island is in the top quartile, nationally, for almost all of the outcome measures. The committee discussed the unmet needs of Rhode Islanders, the education system, and waiting list concerns.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Extension of Rhode Island's Adult Education State Plan under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Revisions include new performance targets and plans for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

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

GWB Annual Meeting

Referring to the Annual Meeting agenda, R. Brooks discussed the presenters and structure of the meeting. He stated Fred Dedrick, Executive Director of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions has been confirmed. Staff is in the process of confirming the panelist to react to Fred's presentation. R. Brooks recommended Polaris MEP and RI Manufacturers Association to receive the Innovation Award and discussed many of their accomplishments as a GWB Industry Partner.

Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts