



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Committee Members Present: Constance Howes, Mike Grey, Martin Trueb, Monica Dzialo, Robin Coia, Susan Rittscher
GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, David Tremblay, Amelia Roberts, Pat Pelletier, Marjories Uceta
DLT Staff Present: Mary Ellen McQueeny-Lally, Diane Vendetti
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 December 10, 2015 Executive Committee meeting.

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

WIOA Policy and Planning

1. Eligible Training Provider List

D. Tremblay opened the meeting and commented that it was the third Executive Committee in a row that the ETPL has been discussed. At this meeting he wanted to address performance elements to be collected and the challenges it presents to providers collecting and reporting the data and secondly what we do with that information and will we hold providers to a standard. C. Howes mentioned that a big concern of the Committee will be when a small amount of WIOA students attend a program and the training provider must provide information for all students attending the program. R. Brooks questioned whether some providers might find it too burdensome to collect the information and walk away.

M. Treub asked if there might be a way to provide the service at a reasonable cost per trainer and hire somebody in a centralized location to collect the data and spread the cost over a larger population.

D. Tremblay stated that it is Congress, not the Department of Labor (DOL) that requires data on all students in a program be reported. D. Tremblay reported that DOL is very conscious of the burden on the training providers. DOL is charged with enforcing the law but they acknowledge the near impossibility of collecting this data and encourage states to work with the providers to minimize the burden. The biggest burden is the collection of wage related data. D. Tremblay reported to the Committee that counselors say often times once training has been determined appropriate for a student the primary reasons why a certain training program is chosen is for the location and knowing somebody who went to that training program. D. Tremblay stated that providing outcome and other consumer information to counselors and customers would facilitate good informed choices.

C. Howes questioned if the corrective action clause in the new policy might be a way to get a waiver from DOL for the training provider. M. Uceta expressed that one thought is to require new training providers to submit their plan for collecting outcome data when submitting an application for the ETPL and to give those existing providers applying for continuing eligibility time to come up with a plan and, if necessary, providing technical assistance to allow them time to remain on the list while working on that plan.

D. Tremblay attended a DOL conference the previous week and learned at an ETP session that some states have interpreted FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) to suggest complying with another law such as WIOA is reasonable and not only permissible but essential. D. Tremblay noted that several years ago the DLT had a DOL WIA Finding because the ETP list was too small. For a list to be responsive it needs to be cultivated.

M. Dzialo questioned if the ETP Policy and list was only for DLT or all of WIOA. D. Tremblay stated that at the conference in Washington the previous week he spoke with Director DiPina of the Department of Human Services (DHS) about aligning the training programs with other core partners such as the Office of Rehabilitative Services and Voc Rehab.

M. Gray questioned overall how big an issue is the collection of data. D. Tremblay said he believes being able to speak to outcomes and the training that Boards invest in would rank at 90%. Policy makers and customers want to know about this information.

R. Brooks brought up the idea of having another meeting with the providers to discuss these issues. M. Treub agreed that it would be beneficial to get the providers together to develop a plan on how to get and share the information that they are probably already collecting. M. Gray stated that there are issues that have to be dealt with to keep this data collection safe. C. Howes summarized the discussion; the Committee is supportive of the federal requirement for accountability, wants to work with the eligible training providers and potential training providers to help them develop the plan for how to get this information and stated that the Committee has an option where they can rely on the state to get the post education information.

C. Howes moved the discussion to the topic of standards. D. Tremblay noted that in the policy, providers under continuing eligibility would provide outcome information and it would be reviewed to see if they would remain on the list. The Draft Rules of the law state that it is permissible for the Governor to set standards. D. Tremblay stated that at this time we do not have a credible way of gathering and analyzing this information. The idea is that for two years we will gather this information to establish a baseline.

M. Gray suggested the importance of a group that decides on the data collected and D. Tremblay agreed that a sub-group anchored to the Board would be beneficial.

2. Recommendations to improve the netWORKri One Stops

3. Opportunities for regional workforce development

R. Brooks reported that the deadline for the WIOA State Plan has been extended from March 3, 2016 to April 1, 2016. D. Tremblay reported that S. Blusiewicz convened a meeting of partners and stakeholders to get their ideas in terms of envisioning a better One Stop. The meeting was well attended and will feed the Plan as to the One Stop conversation. D. Tremblay also reported that S. Chomka also contracted for a Lean event to streamline the intake, eligibility and orientation process in the One-Stop Offices.

Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Pelletier