

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting  
September 10, 2009**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan,  
Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb  
Committee Members absent: Lorna Ricci, Armeather Gibbs, George Nee  
GWB Board Members present: Sharon Moylan, Steven Maurano  
GWB Staff present: John J. O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen  
Mooney  
DLT Staff present: Lori Norris, Maureen Palumbo, Chris Grieco, David  
Tremblay, Carlos Ribeiro  
Others Present: Bob Ricci, Kathleen McKeon, Kathy Williamson, Ann  
Walsh, David Cedrone

**Call to Order**

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items.

**Minutes of 7/16/09**

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 7/16/09 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**VOTE:** M. Trueb moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

**Teacher Externships Summary**

David Cedrone, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Program Manager for the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) provided an update of the STEM Teacher Externship in Industry 2009 Program. He explained that this project places middle school and high school teachers in work assignments in industry over the summer. He noted that during the six week work assignments, teachers participated in a STEM-related work placement providing them with an opportunity to apply the curriculum to real world challenges in the classroom. D. Cedrone reported that the \$25,000 in funds approved by the GWB for this program partially offset the company cost to sponsor a teacher placement, and reduced the employer sponsorship fee from \$800 per week to \$500 per week. He commented that all of the companies greatly appreciated the funding and that 13 teachers were matched to externships at 9 organizations.

**Funding Request: Youth Program FY2010**

Chair MarcAurele mentioned that Maureen Palumbo, Acting Chief of Youth Services, would be reporting on the outcomes of the Youth Program for 2008, followed by Bob Ricci who would provide further information on the funding request for the Youth Program for FY2010.

Maureen Palumbo provided an overview of the PY2008 statewide Job Development Fund (JDF) outcomes which covered the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. A summary provided in the meeting packets notes that the total 2008 JDF allocation was \$3m which included 15,328 service units provided through 13 youth centers, 32 program vendors and 45 programs. The total number of youth in the system totals 7,237 and includes the students from the Cranston School Project.

Robert Ricci provided a history of prior year funding beginning in 2005-2006 when the local workforce boards managed the youth programs. He mentioned that in 2007 the GWB engaged with both of the local workforce investment boards (LWIB) and youth committees and leveraged the JDF dollars associated with the youth system and indicated this was the inception of the statewide system. R. Ricci commented that the youth centers have expanded to 13 statewide. He emphasized that the JDF funding along with additional leveraged funding allows the LWIBs to serve youth that are not WIA eligible which promotes the vision for an all youth agenda. He concluded by reporting that the \$2m in stimulus funds was successfully secured to serve 730 youth over the summer.

Chair MarcAurele congratulated the local workforce boards on their hard work in obtaining the stimulus funds. He asked for a motion to approve the funding of \$2m for the 2010 Youth Program.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. W. McGowan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Funding Request: I Can Learn – Lincoln**

Chair MarcAurele reported that Kathy Williamson of the Lincoln School Department would be presenting the funding request for the last year of the I Can Learn - Lincoln Project. He mentioned that the project originated in Central Falls but was transferred to the Lincoln School Department last year. David Cedrone noted that the intent of the program is to identify how technology complements teacher classroom instruction. He indicated that the funding request of \$15,000 would be used to support the license and technical support fee for this program, which is due to expire in October 2009. Kathy Williamson reported that the pilot program proved to be successful and served those students who continue to struggle and perform at low grade levels in math. She cited improvement in test scores and reported on the expansion of this program from 65 students last year to 143 students currently. A discussion followed regarding pilot and demonstration projects, best practices and bringing these projects to scale to incorporate system change.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve funding for \$15,000 with the provision that evidence of the outcomes of this program be presented in the future. He indicated that any future funding request to the GWB should be supported by RIDE or another school system.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Funding Request: Family Futures Pilot Project**

Kathleen McKeon from the Office of Community Services and Advocacy of the Diocese of Providence discussed the objectives of the joint application with the United Way for \$105,000 to pilot the Family Futures Program under the funding initiative, Financial Stability. She noted that the application was submitted on September 9, 2009 to the United Way. If selected, the Family Futures Program will be funded from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. K. McKeon explained that the Family Futures Project will serve individuals and families in the Pawtucket, Central Falls, Lincoln and Cumberland communities. She indicated that it is proposed that the Family Futures Project utilize a model of financial coaching that will enroll 75 families each year who will be assigned a trained financial coach to work with them to meet specific accomplishments. She indicated the request for funding to support the Family Futures Pilot Project is \$25,000.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$25,000 for the Family Futures Pilot Project. He restated that it is not the intent of the board to approve funding to create programs that will require multiple years of funding. He indicated the committee expects that data will be provided at a future time on the specific outcomes of the programs.

**VOTE:** W. McGowan moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Other Business**

With no further business, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** M. Trueb moved to approve. W. McGowan seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney