

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
November 10, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan, Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb
Committee Members absent: George Nee
GWB Staff present: Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: David Tremblay, Sue Chomka, Chris Grieco, Jen Buck, Diane Gagne, Frank Cerilli, Maureen Palumbo, Paul Genovesi
Others Present: Paul Harden, RIEDC; Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Robert Ricci, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Heidi Collins, Connecting for Children & Families; Malcolm Baxter, United Way volunteer; Charise Wilson, The Genesis Center;

Call to Order

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. He welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda.

Minutes of 9/1/10

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 9/1/10 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

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

Budget Update

Chair MarcAurele asked Nancy Olson to provide a budget update to the committee. N. Olson reviewed the financial summary spreadsheet for FY11 and FY12 and explained the information listed in the budget categories: available funds, budgeted expenditures and planned carry forward. She stated that \$5,275,449 is projected to be spent in the current fiscal year. This \$5.2M includes completed contracts, industry partnerships, adult education and comprehensive workforce training grants. N. Olson reported that the line item uncommitted funds of \$429,955 includes obligations made by the board which are awaiting contracts. She indicated that the actual uncommitted fund amount is \$150,000 which has been established as a reserve fund.

N. Olson reviewed the FY12 projections and commented that budgeted expenditures are expected to be \$4.5M. She mentioned the current obligations in FY12 of \$360,809 which are inter fiscal year obligations. The \$3.5M for adult education leaves approximately \$4M for the board to commit in FY12.

M. Trueb suggested considering a 40/60 match for the comprehensive workforce training grants rather than the current 50/50 match sharing. N. Olson suggested the committee could also consider a maximum award of \$25,000 rather than \$50,000. Chair MarcAurele inquired about past practices for the grants and suggested that the board consider the potential decrease in the size of the grant to \$25,000 to allow the GWB to fund more companies.

Funding Request: Defense Industry Partnership

Chair MarcAurele asked N. Olson to present the funding request for the Industry Partnership program. N. Olson explained the review process, the proposal design and scores for the two organizations that responded to the RFP. She reported that SENEDIA scored 91.5 out of a maximum of 100 points. She reviewed the budget section of their proposal. N. Olson indicated that the budget expenditures would occur in FY11 and FY12 and that January 1, 2011 is the estimated start date for the contract.

Chair MarcAurele asked if there was a motion to approve the Defense Industry Partnership funding request as presented.

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

Funding Request: Skills Tutor for One Stops (WPGRI)

Chair MarcAurele asked Jen Buck from the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island (WPGRI) to present the funding request for the Skills Tutor for One Stops. J. Buck stated that the Skills Tutor is an online basic skills remediation program currently in the Pawtucket and Woonsocket One Stop centers. This program serves adults and youth and provides assistance with GED attainment, post secondary education assistance and workforce readiness. She reported that WPGRI has contracted with the Rhode Island Regional Adult Learning (RIRAL) to provide services to customers in basic skills remediation. J. Buck noted that in June 2010 WPGRI was notified that the RI Department of Education would not be funding Skills Tutor. This left Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to support Skills Tutor services which do not provide the same universal access to all customers. This funding only enables those customers who are eligible and suitable for WIA to receive services. There was a discussion of the funding from RIDE for this program under JDF funds. M. Trueb reiterated the committee's view that pilot projects should not automatically become an annual budgeted item. Chair MarcAurele commented on the difficult population this program serves. It was noted that the funding of this program through the JDF widens the applicant pool since WIA funding is restrictive.

Chair MarcAurele stated that he wanted to go on record that he is supportive of this request. He commented that JDF funds were allocated for adult education programs through RIDE earlier in the fiscal year. He stated there was a lack of transparency in this process and therefore no knowledge by the committee that the Skills Tutor was not being funded through this adult education funding. A discussion on this matter followed.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$109,150.32 as presented.

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

Funding Requests: JDF Funding for Youth Centers FY12 and Summer Youth Program FY12

Chair MarcAurele asked Robert Ricci, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC), to present the funding request for youth for FY12. R. Ricci acknowledged the prior years' JDF funding by the board and the WIA funding. He mentioned the influx of stimulus funds and the decrease in JDF funding for 2009. R. Ricci indicated the importance of funding the youth centers (\$525,000) and youth programs (\$1.5M). He noted that several programs did not occur over the summer due to decreases in funding and mentioned that the JDF allows more flexibility than WIA funding. C. Grieco discussed the summer program in the vocational tech schools

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which was geared toward younger students at risk for dropping out. She noted the reduction in the dropout rate because youth are provided with alternative opportunities. B. Melton indicated his support for the funding requests and provided examples of the services provided in the youth centers and emphasized the quality of the programs.

A general discussion followed. Chair MarcAurele asked if the youth funding requests are to be funded from the FY12 uncommitted funds listed on the financial summary spreadsheet. N. Olson indicated they would be and that the uncommitted funds for FY12 is currently \$4,175,246. Chair MarcAurele suggested that the funding request for the summer youth program for FY12 be revised. This would allow a review of ongoing and future budget expenditures and would provide additional funding for other programs. He noted that the revised request would also allow youth services to go forward.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the JDF funding request in the amount of \$525,000 for the Youth Centers for FY 12. He asked for a motion to approve the JDF funding request for \$1M for the summer youth program for FY12 with the intent to fund the remaining \$500,000 at a later date if money is available.

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

CCRI Commission

Chair MarcAurele asked Lisa D'Agostino to provide an update on the CCRI Commission. She stated that Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC) legislation has been amended to create a State Career Pathways System Taskforce under the HRIC. She explained there are 15 members to be selected for the task force which includes 9 members to be appointed by the Governor. The other positions are by statute and include the Office of Higher Education, Department of Labor and Training (DLT), the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Center for Workforce and Community Education (CWCE) at the Community College of RI (CCRI).

L. D'Agostino noted the task force will include representatives from the Industry Partnerships, adult education employers and employees. She indicated that the Governor will be making the announcement of the appointments at a December 6th meeting.

Other Business

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 11.21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mooney