

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
May 2, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan, Brandon Melton, George Nee, Martin Trueb
GWB Staff present: Lisa D'Agostino, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Paul Genovesi
Others Present: Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm Baxter, United Way volunteer; Paul Harden, RIEDC, Philip Less, RIDE, Jim Glover, Providence Cranston Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. He welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda.

Minutes of 4-4-11

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the April 4, 2011 Strategic Investments Committee meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Corrections were noted on the expenditure figures (rounding) listed in paragraph one and two of the minutes. Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the stipulation that the corrections be made.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Comprehensive Workforce Training Grant Program: 2012 Grant Award Cap

Chair MarcAurele asked Lisa D'Agostino to provide further information on the Comprehensive Workforce Training Grant Program award maximum amount. L. D'Agostino referred to the vote taken at the last board meeting approving \$1M for the training grants for FY12. She mentioned that in previous years the maximum award had been \$50,000 with a \$50,000 match and that last year there was a \$25,000 maximum award cap in place for the second round of the 2010 grants. She indicated that a cap on the grant award amount would allow more organizations to be funded and asked committee members to consider this option. There was a suggestion offered to limit or target the training but there was not a consensus on this option.

After discussion, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the maximum grant award cap of \$25,000 for the FY2012 grants.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Budget Update – DOA and DOR Expenditures

Chair MarcAurele asked Diane Gagne, Assistant Director of DLT to provide an update on the budget and the related Department of Administration (DOA) and Department of Revenue (DOR) expenditures that were discussed at the last Strategic Investments Committee.

D. Gagne provided a Cash-Flow Summary handout which detailed fund availability, estimated budgeted expenditures and planned/anticipated carry forward for FY 2011 and FY2012. She noted that the summary includes the obligations voted on at the last Strategic Investments Committee meeting including \$1M for Comprehensive Workforce Training Grants and \$1M for the Industry Partnership program. The Cash-Flow Summary is available in the meeting packet.

D. Gagne provided detail in a separate summary on the DOA and DOR expenditures from FY2007 through FY2010. She explained cost of the debt service on the Central General Complex as well as the breakout of expenditures for Human Resources, Facilities Management and Information Technology. She mentioned that these centralized expenses were a result of Governor Carcieri's fiscal fitness program and were established by Executive Order. She noted an increase in the JDF actual expenses in FY2010 for the Division of Information Technology suggesting this may be attributed to staffing costs for the installation of computer systems in the netWORKri offices. D. Gagne reviewed the expenditures relating to the Employer Tax section of DOR which is a centralized service for work performed related to the tax reporting form for the Job Development Fund (JDF) for the processing of all Quarterly Tax and Wage Reports and accompanying tax payments that are submitted by Rhode Island employers. The DOA/DOR Summary is available in the meeting packet.

There was a discussion regarding the expenditures relating to both the 10% Indirect Cost Recovery expenditures and the DOA/DOR centralization since this represents a substantial expense to the Job Development Fund (JDF). It was suggested that since the top priority of the Governor, the Administration and the Governor's Workforce Board is workforce development, that these overhead costs be reviewed and either lessened or exempted. It was stated that the board has an obligation to have a conversation about this issue, to bring attention to this and to put the Administration on notice of its concerns. It was suggested that a delegation of board members representing business and labor meet with the Director of Administration for a discussion on this topic.

FY12 GWB Funding Priorities

Chair MarcAurele asked Lisa D'Agostino to discuss the availability of funds and issues and priorities of the board in determining future funding. L. D'Agostino reviewed the obligations already made by the board for FY 12 which included \$1M for the Comprehensive Workforce Training Grants and \$1M for the Industry Partnership Program. She noted the placeholder of \$3.5M for adult education programs leaving approximately \$1.2M as the anticipated carry forward for FY12.

Given the limited resources, a discussion followed on the need for the Board to examine its mission and the intent of the law in determining the funding priorities moving forward into FY12. A suggestion was made to review funded initiatives from prior years to assess effectiveness and assist in future funding decisions. It was mentioned that future funding requests should tie into the components of the State Strategic Plan.

Other Business

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney