

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
October 11, 2011**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Constance Howes, Martin Trueb, George Nee
Committee Members absent: William McGowan, Brandon Melton
GWB Staff present: Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Angelo Dafonseca,
Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Charles Fogarty, Paul Genovesi, Chris Grieco, Laura Hart
Others Present: Philip Less, RIDE, Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm
Baxter, BIS; Kelly Ramirez, Rob Panoff, & Tobias Lederberg
SVPRI; Sarah Griffen & Kristen Lehoullier, RISES; Jill Holloway,
Professional Development Center

Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of 6-27-11

Chair Howes asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the June 27, 2011 Strategic Investments Committee meeting. She asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

FY12 Budget & Cash Flow Summary Update

Chair Howes asked Diane Gagne, CFO of RIDLT, to provide an update on the FY12 Budget & Cash Flow Summary. D. Gagne reported on the FY2012 available funds and adjustments and noted that the DOR/Employer Tax Unit cost projections were higher than previously anticipated. She attributed this to the cost of work being processed. G. Nee asked about the staff cost based on the work performed. D. Gagne indicated she could research the FTE level for this process. C. Howes stated the department should provide oversight to ensure the positions are necessary noting that with limited resources, the GWB will be looking for the best use of funds.

M. Trueb asked about the \$5.8M FY12 budget for the RI Department of Education (RIDE). Director Fogarty explained the situation with the Job Development Fund (JDF) and the letter of legislative intent which would clarify the law. He noted we do not have this letter, indicating the budget stands. He stated that at this point in time he does not anticipate this will change.

D. Gagne reviewed the FY12 budgeted expenditure categories and reported that the ending balance was slightly less than reported at the September board meeting. She stated that \$664,079 is the balance available to fund the board initiatives.

Funding Request: Industry Partnership

Chair Howes asked Nancy Olson of the GWB to present the funding request for the Industry Partnerships. N. Olson referred to the handout entitled "FY12 Industry Partnership Contract Amounts". She reviewed the original and final contract amounts and explained the factors behind the decrease in the funds for the partnerships. She stated that the board previously approved \$1M in funding for the Industry Partnerships. N. Olson stated that although the RFP noted a July 1st start date, the existing partners operated for July and August with in-kind

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services. This allowed for a 10 month contract for the new Industry Partnerships which further reduced the budgets. N. Olson stated that in addition to this, negotiations occurred with the three health care providers to function as one health care industry partnership. She noted that each has an individual contract. N. Olson stated that \$113,410.78 was de-obligated from the previous partnerships. Since the final contract amount needed to fund the partnerships for FY12 is \$1,118,310.75, only \$5,000 of additional funding is being requested.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to recapture the \$113,410.78 to fund the FY12 Industry Partnerships.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to fund the FY12 Industry Partnerships with the additional \$5,000 requested.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Funding Request: Relevant Integrated Skills and Education Strategy (RISES)

Chair Howes asked Sarah Griffen and Kristen Lehoullier to present the funding request for RISES. K. Lehoullier explained RISES as a strategy for aligning and organizing funding along industry-based career pathway continuums that enable residents and workers at all literacy and skill levels to access contextualized training and education. She noted that the work will align with the GWB Career Pathways System Task Force (CPSTF). She reviewed the handout entitled "RISES – A High Impact Alignment Strategy Building Rhode Islanders' Skills to Meet Industry Demand".

S. Griffen provided information on the work product which she described as a matrix of funding streams with eligibility, regulatory, reporting, outcomes and other information. It would include an analysis of how policies might be improved to support a continuum of training and education to fit industry demand and worker needs. She noted the intent of the work is to understand how to strategically use resources in support of a career pathways system that enables workers who have a range of skills levels to move through a career pathway because resources are intentionally aligned. She mentioned that the Annie E. Casey Foundation committed \$20,000 to support the next phase of RISES; which is expected to be completed in December of 2011. She noted that additional funds from the Governor's Workforce Board in the amount of \$40,000 will maintain the momentum on work completed and planned through December 2012.

A discussion on the funding request followed. M. Trueb asked about the end result of this work and how it would be integrated as part of an ongoing operation. A set of conditions was suggested for an affirmative decision on this funding request. They included:

- RISES must integrate the work of the GWB Career Pathways System Task Force
- Future funding requests for this project would not be considered
- A prescribed set of information and tools on how to get more funding is required

Chair Howes asked if there was motion to approve the funding request of \$40,000 for RISES. She noted that \$20,000 would come from the FY12 budget and \$20,000 from the FY13 budget.

For the record, G. Nee stated his uneasiness with the direction of the funding requests before the GWB and his concern that the focus is moving away from the GWB mission. Chair Howes noted the importance of informing stakeholders of the diminishing resources.

G. Nee stated he would like the committee and/or the board to receive quarterly updates on the RISES project.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Funding Request: Social Venture Partners Rhode Island (SVPRI)

Chair Howes asked Kelly Ramirez to present the funding request for Social Ventures Partners Rhode Island. Other members of SVPRI presenting included Rob Panoff and Tobias Lederberg. K. Ramirez explained that SVPRI is a partnership of more than 70+ business and community leaders who contribute their skills and financial resources to help organizations and individuals establish and scale social enterprises that create jobs and revenue. She mentioned program components such their Change Accelerator, Young Social Innovators program, and others. She stated that SVPRI is a non profit 501 3C. K. Ramirez indicated that they are seeking \$100,000 from the GWB to support several programs that will expedite the development of this rapidly growing industry, create new ventures and jobs and continue to leverage Rhode Island's unique position as a leader in the social enterprise space. She noted that \$50,000 would commission a research study to better understand the composition, and economic impacts of the sector, noting they have secured \$25,000 in matching funds. The other \$50,000 would be used to continue the pipeline of Rhode Island-based social entrepreneurs, and provide incubation and support services to the state's social ventures.

Chair Howes stated that due to the amount of resources available to the GWB, the timing for this request is not right. She noted that the board would be meeting on December 1, 2011 at a retreat to discuss and review the limited funding available and the direction the board would like to take. She indicated that after December 1st, the board would have a clearer direction and that SVPRI could come back to the committee after that time.

M. Trueb stressed the importance of demonstrating the value of the funding, the collaboration of stakeholders and effectiveness of the funded initiatives. He suggested that the metrics reinforce the value of the work done by the board. It was noted that obtaining a job is not the only outcome and others include increasing employees skill level and improving the company's productivity. Chair Howes stated that an overview of the metrics of the board's success will be brought to the retreat for review and discussion. Philip Less of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) offered to provide data on both educational and employment gains for the December board retreat.

Other Business

Chair Howes mentioned that the 2012 meeting schedule for the Strategic Investments Committee was in the meeting packet. With no further business, Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney

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