

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
January 3, 2012**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Constance Howes, William McGowan,
Brandon Melton, George Nee,
Committee Members absent: Martin Trueb
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Sean Fontes, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen
Mooney
DLT Staff present: Charles Fogarty, Sean Fontes, Paul Genovesi, David Tremblay,
Laura Hart, Bob Garofano, Maureen Palumbo
Others Present: Tom Costello, CCRI, Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Malcolm
Baxter, BIS

Call to Order

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

Minutes of 10-11-11

Chair Howes asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the October 11, 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 W. McGowan. All were in favor, the motion passed.

FY12 Budget Update

Chair Howes asked Diane Gagne to provide an update on the FY12 budget. D. Gagne referred to the handout entitled "GWBRI Financial Analysis" and noted this is a working draft. She reported that collections were higher by approximately \$100,000 than what was anticipated. D. Gagne noted the \$3.5M proposed allocation to the RI Department of Education (RIDE) as a placeholder for FY13. She reported that the current balance available to GWB to prioritize for initiatives for the remaining of this fiscal year is \$601,309.

JDF Funding Request for Youth Centers \$100,000

Chair Howes asked M. Palumbo to present the funding request for the Youth Centers. M. Palumbo explained the funding cycle for the youth centers noting that the full year program runs from April 1st through March 31st and that current youth center funding ends on March 31st. She indicated that the JDF funding request before the committee is for \$100,000 to fund the youth centers from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. She emphasized that without continued funding, youth services statewide would change.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion recommending funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the youth centers from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.

VOTE: W. McGowan motioned to recommend funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Youth Centers from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. G. Nee seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

JDF Funding Request: FY12 Investment Strategies \$250,000

Chair Howes asked R. Brooks to present the JDF funding request for FY12 Investment Strategies. R. Brooks suggested that the additional unexpended funds for the remainder of the fiscal year provide an opportunity to make a short term, immediate impact on the workforce. He proposed that \$250,000 of the JDF funds be allocated for short term training and employment opportunities with the goal of getting the unemployed into the workforce. He suggested this as a pilot with a view towards expanding the investment if successful. He explained that this is a different approach from the Comprehensive Workforce Training grants. This pilot would match employers who are ready to hire with those unemployed with targeted training.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion recommending funding in the amount of \$250,000 to provide short-term training and employment of unemployed youth and adults utilizing JDF funding from FY12.

VOTE: G. Nee motioned to recommend funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the short-term training and employment of unemployed youths and adults utilizing FY12 JDF funds. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

JDF Funding Request: Melanie Arthur \$5,000

Chair Howes asked R. Brooks to present the JDF funding request for consulting services for Melanie Arthur. R. Brooks suggested that up to \$5,000 from the JDF be used to enlist Melanie Arthur to work with staff to align RFPs, outcome measures and other funding streams with the Board priorities determined at the December retreat.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion recommending JDF funding in the amount of up to \$5,000 for the continuation of consulting services relating to follow-up work from the facilitation of the GWB board retreat held on December 1, 2011.

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

Formation of new "Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee"

Chair Howes informed committee members that at the December 6, 2011 Executive meeting, committee members voted on the reorganization of two committees: Strategic Investments and Planning and Evaluation. She indicated that combining of these two committees would allow for establishing the criteria for funding as well as evaluation and measurement of outcomes of programs. She indicated this item would be on the consent agenda for the January board meeting.

George Nee proposed that a small group from the board meet with Director Licht at the Department of Administration regarding the Indirect Cost Recovery issue that has been discussed at the Strategic Investments Committee. He stated that this issue should be brought to the attention of the Department of Administration in order to better utilize the JDF funds. He suggested that a reduction of 10% of funds over time as a phase out plan would be helpful in providing more funding for its intended purpose.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Mooney