

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting  
February 7, 2012**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Constance Howes, William McGowan, Brandon Melton, George Nee, Martin Trueb  
GWB Board members present: Charles Fogarty, Mario Bueno, Sharon Moylan, Pheamo Witcher  
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Angelo Dafonseca, Maureen Mooney  
DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Laura Hart, Maureen Palumbo, Chris Grieco  
Others Present: Tom Costello, CCRI, Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Andrea Castaneda, RIDE

**Call to Order**

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She mentioned that when the amendments to the by-laws are approved by the board that the Strategic Investments Committee and Planning and Evaluation Committee will be combined and that William McGowan has been asked to chair this committee.

**Minutes of 1-3-12**

Chair Howes asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the January 3, 2012 Strategic Investments Committee meeting. She asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed.

**Update of Funding Strategies**

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update of funding strategies for FY2012. R. Brooks noted that at the January meeting, the board allocated up to \$350,000 of FY2012 funds to support short-term training and employment initiatives for unemployed and underemployed Rhode Islanders. He reviewed the summary of proposals received from several GWB Industry Partners which contained a high probability of leading to employment for unemployed individuals. He reviewed the proposals from the partners in healthcare, hospitality and information and bio technology as described in the handout provided to committee members and noted the estimated cost.

R. Brooks noted that the programs identified by these partners would cost approximately \$210,000. He noted that another option under consideration for funding for the remaining \$140,000 is to offer partial wage subsidies for eligible employers that hire Rhode Islanders who are currently collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits. He indicated this option would be structured to encourage both large and small employers to participate. There were several questions and a discussion followed.

**Discussion of Proposed Funding Criteria for Future GWB Investments**

Chair Howes stated that the next item of business is to discuss proposed funding criteria for future GWB investments. She indicated that Melanie Arthur would facilitate this discussion building upon the short term objectives from the board retreat. M. Arthur referred to the handout provided entitled "Maximizing and Aligning Workforce Development Funds".

She stated that the discussion will be focused on the Job Development Funds (JDF) and the processes, criteria and methods for strategically investing workforce development funds. She reviewed the overall board and committee intent related to funds and resources, the action steps in general and FY2013 short-term objectives (from the GWB Strategic Plan). M. Arthur followed with a discussion of the recommended criteria to apply to all workforce development funding handled by the GWB. She explained the criteria which include standard criteria, annual criteria and project-specific criteria and a discussion followed. Several suggestions were offered and M. Arthur indicated she would edit the criteria based on the discussion and revise. There was a brief discussion on how these criteria might be applied to programs the GWB has previously funded (youth, industry partnerships, adult education).

Chair Howes asked if a revised and concise document (Maximizing and Aligning Workforce Development Funds) could be completed in time for the February 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting. M. Arthur indicated she would be able to do so and that the primary focus of the document would be on the methods for applying criteria to funding decisions and allocations.

With no further business, Chair Howes 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 was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney