

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting
March 1, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Mario, Bueno, Constance Howes, William McGowan, George Nee, Martin Trueb

Committee Members absent: Brandon Melton

GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Angelo Dafonseca, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Laura Hart, Paul Genovesi, Diane Gagne, Lisa D'Agostino

Others Present: Tom Costello, CCRI; Phillip Less, RIDE; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Paul Harden, RIEDC; Kathy Tufts, RIEDC; Robert Ricci and Ann Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, Dianne Vendetti, Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Call to Order

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the newly combined Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee. He mentioned that combining the two committees will provide a comprehensive approach for the investments and programs supported by the board.

Minutes

Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the February 7, 2012 Strategic Investments Committee meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the November 8, 2012 Planning & Evaluation Committee meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

Budget Update

Chair McGowan asked Diane Gagne, CFO at Department of Labor & Training to provide an update on the budget. D. Gagne referred to the handout "GWBRI Financial Analysis".

G. Nee questioned why the DOR/Employer Tax Unit cost increased despite the even staffing level. D. Gagne indicated she will contact the unit to determine the actual year end expenditures. George Nee stated, for the record, that the 10% Indirect Cost Recovery and the DOR/Employer Tax Unit costs total close to \$2M and emphasized the importance of the board being informed of these costs. D. Gagne stated she would provide committee members with the agreement for services with the Department of Administration (DOA) which should provide further explanation of the expenses. Chair McGowan agreed that it is critical for the board to know more about these costs in order to be more effective and accountable with funding decisions.

Funding Request: Defense Industry Partnership

Chair McGowan asked Rick Brooks to present the funding request for the Defense Industry Partnership. R. Brooks stated that Senedia is the newest Industry Partner for the defense industry. He indicated the funding expired January 1, 2012 and that they are requesting \$20,000 for an extension through June 30, 2012. R. Brooks spoke of the event held this past Monday at Quonset Point on the release of the skills gap report and noted the Governor, other dignitaries and media were attendance. He explained that this funding would allow them to continue the work on the skills gaps study and additional work on their website.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the funding request for the Defense Industry Partnership in the amount of \$20,000 to continue the work through the end of the fiscal year.

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

Funding Request: Export Assistance Export Management Training

Chair McGowan asked Kathy Tufts of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to present the funding request for the Export Assistance Export Management Training Program. K. Tufts acknowledged the longstanding partnership with the GWB for this program and noted that the funding request for \$20,000 would carry them through the end of the fiscal year. She explained that the funding allows them to offer export training programs to eligible Rhode Island companies to train their workforce to compete in global markets. She mentioned significant results of these export training programs and provided several success stories.

George Nee recused himself from the vote since he is a member of the RIEDC board.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$20,000 to continue the work of the Export Assistance Export Management Training program through the end of the fiscal year.

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

Recommendations for FY13 Budget Allocations

Chair McGowan asked Rick Brooks to present the recommendations for FY13 budget allocations. R. Brooks referred to the handout entitled "Proposed GWB Funding Categories & Allocations – FY2013". He reviewed information on the projected JDF collections, available JDF funds and proposed investments. He indicated that these are recommendations, subject to change, and that the proposals will come back to the committee for approval. There was discussion on suggested modifications to some of the investments but it was decided to leave the funding projections as is with the acknowledgement there could be changes. Part of the discussion centered around current and previous adult education funding and how this funding relates to obtaining employment. C. Howes offered that future funding for adult education should not be an entitlement but should require discussion based on the funding criteria set by the board.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the recommendations for the FY13 budget allocations with the understanding it can be changed going forward.

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

Adoption of Funding Criteria

Chair McGowan asked Connie Howes to provide an overview of the funding criteria initially established at the board retreat. C. Howes reviewed the process behind the funding criteria and explained that it is brought before the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee for final approval. She stated the criteria will inform investment decisions and methods to judge performance and accountability. She reviewed the standard, annual and project-specific criteria.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the adoption of funding criteria as presented.

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

Funding Request FY2013 –Summer Work Experience Program \$1M

Chair McGowan asked Robert Ricci of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and Diane Vendetti of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island to present the FY2013 funding request for the summer youth work experience program. R. Ricci provided an overview of previous years' youth programs and the funding history and background on WIA and JDF funds. He explained the barriers associated with WIA funding and the flexibility of the JDF funds to support youth programs. He noted the positive results of funding youth programs including assisting with job preparation and encouraging youth to stay in school.

Chair McGowan mentioned that Brandon Melton was out of state on business and unable to attend this meeting. Chair McGowan noted the important work done under Brandon's leadership on the GWB Youth Development Committee and his advocacy to support youth funding and programming. He noted that the vote today is for the summer youth work program and that the committee will consider the youth center funding proposal next month.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$1M for the Youth Summer Work Experience Program.

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

Workforce Investment Notices: 11-09, 11-10, 11-11, 11-12

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay of the State Workforce Investment Office to review Workforce Investment Notices 11-09, 11-10, 11-11 and 11-12.

Workforce Investment Notice 11-09 Changes in Adult and Dislocated Worker Funds for PY2011

This issuance provides guidance on ETA plans to adjust FY12 portion of PY11 allocations for Adult and Dislocated Workers regarding the 1.503 percent rescission.

Workforce Investment Notice 11-10 Eligible Training Provider Outcome Data

This issuance provides ongoing information and guidance to Local Workforce Investment Areas, training providers, other netWORKri partners and customers and ensures that certain outcomes of training programs are available on the Department of Labor and Training website.

Workforce Investment Notice 11-11 Gold Card Initiative

This issuance provides information on the new Gold Card Initiative for Post- 9/11 Era Veterans. Under this Gold Card Initiative, post 9/11 era veterans may receive enhanced intensive services at local One-Stop Centers. These Gold Card services are comprised of a suite of intensive and follow-up services designed for unemployed post 9/11 era veterans. Gold Card services will include a combination of services, such as skills assessment, career counseling, and job search assistance to reconnect veterans to the civilian labor force in high demand occupations.

Workforce Investment Notice 11-12 Adult and Dislocated Worker Allocations for PY2011

This issuance transmits the PY2011/FY2012 split for Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the Workforce Investment Notices as presented.

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

With no further business, Chair McGowan 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 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney