

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting
January 3, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: William McGowan, Constance Howes, Brandon Melton
Mario Bueno, Martin Trueb
Committee Members Absent: George Nee
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown,
Sherri Carello, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, Paul Genovesi
Others Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Linda Katz and Irena Nedeljkovic,
Economic Progress Institute; Robert Ricci, Workforce
Solutions of Providence/Cranston

Call to Order

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the December 4, 2012 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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

Budget Update

Chair McGowan asked Diane Gagne, CFO of DLT Business Affairs, to provide an update on the budget. D. Gagne reviewed the GWBRI Financial Analysis spreadsheet and explained that columns 1-3 provide historical data and that column 4 is the starting point for FY13. She noted that column 5 refers to the adjustments made through the fiscal year. D. Gagne spoke specifically to column 6 which provides the latest information on the available funds and budgeted expenditures to date. She explained that \$910,311 is available to allocate to specific budget categories. D. Gagne referred to a handout entitled *Financial Analysis – External Contracts* and provided an update.

Workforce Innovation Grant Update

Chair McGowan asked Elizabeth Jardine of the GWB staff to provide an update on the Workforce Innovation Grant. E. Jardine provided a summary of the \$3M grant noting it is a systems integration grant noting that one goal is to establish a pilot for the one-stop centers. This pilot would target job seekers from the one-stops to support traditional services and offer an on-ramp to career pathways. E. Jardine indicated that the GWB Career Pathways System Task Force has formed the underpinning of the work highlighted in the Workforce Innovation Grant. She stated that a key component of the pilot will include workforce readiness training with the goal of obtaining a workforce readiness credential. E. Jardine explained some of the work relating to this which was followed by a discussion of the value of the credential to the employer. Comments were raised about differing levels of the credential and also if the plan

was for it to become a statewide credential. E. Jardine stated that the targeted time frame for the first pilot group is September 2013.

GWB Investments – Update

Incumbent Worker Training Grants

Chair McGowan asked Dan Brown of the GWB staff to provide an update on the Incumbent Worker Training Grants (IWTG). Dan reviewed the progress to date on the grant contracts noting that 83 companies were funded and would train a total of 3818 employees. He noted that the training ends on June 2013 and that 26 companies were providing in-house training.

R. Brooks raised the question of continuing to offer the in-house training option for future IWTG indicating this allows the employer to credit the salaries of their in-house staff. He stated this is a policy question that should come before the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee. He indicated this topic could be discussed at the next meeting if that is the wish of the committee.

Express Grants

Chair McGowan asked Sherri Carello of the GWB staff to provide an update on the Express Grants. S. Carello reviewed a hand-out listing the 2013 Express Grants submitted between 11/29/12 and 12/14/12 and noted the funds awarded to the companies. She explained the review process and the bonus funding for the youth internship component which reduces the match required of the employer. She indicated that the youth centers work directly with the employers on the internship placements. S. Carello reported that 83 employees and 4 youth will be trained from this first round of grants.

In response to a question about future utilization of funding for these grant awards, R. Brooks stated that \$500,000 has been allocated to the budget category for Express Grants. S. Carello mentioned that only one application has been submitted for the next round noting that the due date is more than a week away. It was suggested that a more targeted marketing effort be made to utilize the funding before the end of the fiscal year.

Jobs Initiative

Chair McGowan asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the GWB Jobs Initiative. R. Brooks reported on the \$1M allocation for this initiative and provided a brief overview of the programs. He reviewed the current obligations for Tunstall/AMAC (\$213,000), Building Futures (\$126,541), Tech Collective Fellowship Program (\$152,588), and the Local Workforce Investment Boards.

Innovative Partnership Grants

Chair McGowan asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the Innovative Partnership Grants. R. Brooks reported that due to an overflow crowd, two pre-proposal conferences were held. He indicated that there were approximately 80 attendees at the December 17th conference and 50 attendees at the January 2nd conference. He noted that the board allocated \$1.4M with the restored funds from the legislature for this initiative. He explained the requirements listed in the RFP and estimated there could be 40-50 proposals received. He reported that the deadline for receipt of the proposals is February 6th and the grant period runs from April 2013 until June 2013.

Workforce Investment Notice – 11-22 change 1

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to review WIN 11-22 change 1. D. Tremblay explained that the WIN informs local areas that the current local plans will be automatically extended to March 31, 2013. He further explained that the WIN informs local areas that the due date for submission of the Five Year Local Plan is February 28, 2013.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve WIN 11-22, change 1.

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

With no further business, Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney