

netWORKri Restructuring Task Team of the Governor's Workforce Board
December 7, 2005
8:00 a.m.
RI Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI
Conference room 69-1

In attendance:

Task Team Members

Bill McGowan

Lorna Ricci*

Bob Nangle

Mario Bueno

Deborah Wilson

Michael McMahon*

George Nee*

* Denotes absence

Guests: Kathy Partington, Lori DelRossi, Michael Koback, Sandra Powell

Chairman Bill McGowan welcomed the members of the committee and thanked them for their participation in the last meeting and also for the information that was provided today by the staff. Chairman McGowan indicated another meeting may be needed before the committee moves forward with final recommendations.

Chairman McGowan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 30th meeting, Bob Nangle motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Deborah Wilson and passed unanimously.

The Department provided the committee with the information requested by the members of the committee. The information was reviewed and discussed in great detail.

Sandra Powell thanked Kathy Partington for her involvement and for also providing the necessary information for today's meeting. A brief recap of the restructuring options provided at the last meeting was reviewed.

The presentation of requested information began with a list of the required One-Stop Partners. In 2000 the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title 1, section 121 (b) (1) identifies the entities that are required partners in the One-Stop system as follows:

WIA Adults, WIA Youth, WIA Dislocated Workers, Job Corps, Native American Programs, Migrants and Seasonal Farmworker Programs, Veterans Workforce Programs, Welfare to Work (Section 403 of the Social Security Act), Wagner-Peyser Act Programs, Adult Education and Literacy (WIA Title II), Vocational Rehabilitation, Senior Community Service Employment Activities (serving individuals over the age of 55), Postsecondary Vocational and Education Activities, Trade Adjustment Assistance and NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance, Community Service Block Grant Employment & Training Activities, Department of Housing and Urban Development Employment & Training Activities, Unemployment Insurance.

One of the mandatory partners in the One-Stop system is the Job Corps. They have not returned to the One-Stop system and they have separate offices. The Native American Programs have one main office for the region but we are currently working out a partner agreement to have some presence at the One-Stop system. There are a limited number of Migrants and Seasonal Farmworker programs operated through the US Department of Labor. The Welfare to Work program is administered through the US Department of Labor. The Wagner Peyser program is an umbrella program, universally helping job seekers. Dr. Johan Uvin is the new Director for the Adult Education and Literacy programs for the state.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program is a strong partner in the One-Stops System. The Senior Community Service Employment Activities has limited presence and serves individuals over the age of 55, Trade Adjustment Assistance and NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance and Unemployment Insurance. The Postsecondary Vocational and Education Activities and the Community Service Block Grant Employment and Training Activities are not involved in the One-Stop System. The Department of Housing and Urban Development Employment & Training Activities have not been as successful as we would like.

Additional partners may include: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) The food Stamp Act Employment & Training Programs assist individuals in returning to work. The National and Community Service Act Programs have limited presence.

Sandra Powell reviewed the netWORKri Operational Report for June 2005 and for the full year from July 2004 through June 2005. The report consisted of activities and demographics for each netWORKri office. Sandra reviewed information of the Pawtucket office as an example. In June 05 the Pawtucket office had 248 new customers visit the Center. For the full year 5,573 customers visited the Pawtucket office. The Resource Room is essentially self service and computers are provided for resumes. Staff is always available to offer assistance. Orientations are provided through job fairs and job search workshops; resume writing workshops, labor market information, which describes the trends and the jobs that are available. Aptitude and typing tests are also available. There are job order placements and on-site recruitments, where a company representative will stay at the One-Stop and recruit for their company.

Chairman McGowan and Mr. Nangle commented that the netWORKri Operational Report was very informative and the information provided was very helpful.

DLT's most recent Job Fair was a Veterans Job Fair, intended to help older and newly returning veterans. Over a period of several hours, there were approximately 500 people who attended this job fair in the Providence office. This being a team effort, it was quite successful.

Rapid Response to Employers is when the employer announces a layoff; the individuals being laid off are oriented by our staff from Dislocated Worker Unit so when the time comes for the individual to be laid off, they are familiar with the next steps. Tax Credit information is given to employers and on site visits are provided to employers.

Sandra mention there is a need to rethink what services would make a reemployment office. The quality of services is very important. Keeping an office open one day per week should be considered as another option and Deborah Wilson suggested a mobile unit, which would also benefit the staff. Mario Bueno pointed out the importance of partnering to deliver quality service.

Chairman McGowan asked if there are interpreter services available. Sandra and Kathy Partington responded the staff is always available to assist and if needed with advance notice, an interpreter can be hired through the Master Price Agreement.

The committee needs to review numerous options with regard to netWORKri restructuring. More information is needed to decide on the most appropriate option. It was agreed that the committee would spend additional time on the financial matters and review the options once again.

Respectfully submitted:

Tamara J. Keane