

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MAY 22, 2008
MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Jack Warner, William McGowan (for J. MarcAurele),
Mario Bueno, Robert Nangle, Robert Paniccia
Committee Members Absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Armeather Gibbs, George Nee,
Paul MacDonald
GWB Members present: Sandra Powell
Others Present: Johan Uvin, Patty Panzarella, Dr. John Tyler, Jillian Berk,
Robin Smith, Lisa D'Agostino
GWB Staff Present: Michael Koback, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

With a quorum present, Chair Warner called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman's Report

Chair Warner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions for the benefit of the guest presenter, Dr. John Tyler from Brown University.

Approval of minutes of 2/14/08

A motion was entered to approve the Adult Education and Literacy Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2008.

VOTE: R. Paniccia moved to approve, seconded by R.Nangle. All approved.
The motion passed.

Brief Updates on Major Funding Initiatives

J. Uvin presented updates on the funding initiative activity from the prior year. He noted the following:

- *Transition since July 1, 2007 from enrollment based to outward based funding.* The results of this transition have been reviewed with encouraging results.
J. Uvin noted a significant upward movement and is encouraged the right decision was made for this funding transition.
- *Development of a new architecture for a system that works with networks rather than a multitude of individual agencies.*
J. Uvin noted that a work group of practitioners has been established to accomplish the work , who are engaged in this developing process.
- *Development of program standards.*
J. Uvin noted the establishment of a workgroup of approximately 50 practitioners who are working on recommendations regarding program and content standards.
- *Tiered system for assessments*
J. Uvin noted the importance of anchoring this system to current content standards as well as standardized testing and certification.
- *Urban one stop demonstration projects*
J. Uvin noted that with the exception of one site, the demonstration projects are doing well. He noted there are understandable delays with this one site and indicated that resources may be shifted.

- *Newport Skills Alliance Initiative*

J. Uvin noted this initiative is progressing quickly towards implementation.

- *Professional Development Center*

J. Uvin reported that Jill Holloway is the new Executive Director of the Professional Development Center which is housed at Rhode Island College. He indicated that as a result of her leadership skills, this initiative is moving forward successfully.

Chair Warner reiterated an important goal and accomplishment of this committee which is to develop a more comprehensive system which is built on a collection of disparate providers. He indicated the process is to build this system one component at a time.

He noted the intentional focus on quality first in implementing the standards. Other goals such as stabilizing the funding, expanding the funding period to three years, and changing the basis for the allocation of funds are all significant achievements. Chair Warner emphasized the importance of supporting professional development efforts.

J. Uvin mentioned his recent review of the original report from the Governor's task force on adult education and acknowledged the many important accomplishments. He suggested the possibility of hosting a celebratory event with a view towards next steps for the future.

Mini-presentation on the History and Purpose of the GED

J. Warner introduced the topic of the GED and the economic returns associated with this diploma. J. Uvin provided a background for the presentation by explaining the process of GED test administration, which is coordinated by the Office of Adult Education. He introduced Pat Panzarella who coordinates this process for the entire state. The office handles a large amount of employer verification requests, requests from colleges for transcripts, daily phone calls and walk in appointments from customers. He reported that GED data from the past several years has been collected electronically for future research purposes. Chair Warner indicated that a major point of discussion regarding the GED relates to the economic returns from the GED program which will be a topic of Dr. Tyler's presentation.

GED Research Presentation

Dr. John Tyler, Associate Professor of Education, Public Policy and Economics at Brown University presented current research on the GED. His presentation was entitled: Low-Skilled Workers and the Rhode Island Labor Market: The Role of Education Credentials. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available in the meeting packet.

Other Business

Chair Warner asked if any further business was to come before the committee. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

VOTE: R. Nangle moved to adjourn, seconded by R. Paniccia. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney