

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 7, 2009**

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Jack Warner, Chair, Mario Bueno, Robert Nangle,
Armeather Gibbs, George Nee
Committee Members Absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Paul MacDonald
Others Present: Johan Uvin, Elizabeth Jardine
GWB Staff Present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Dan Brown,
Maureen Mooney

With a quorum present, Chair Warner called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 2/5/09.

Approval of minutes of 2/5/09

A motion was entered to approve the Adult Education and Literacy Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2009.

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

Recap of Public Event

Chair Warner reported that the February public event showcasing the report on the status of adult literacy programs in Rhode Island was successful and a true celebration. He commented on the significant strides made in developing and implementing a more focused and streamlined adult education system. He suggested there was more work to be accomplished and that a focus should be placed on quality by increasing the average amount of time individuals spend in programs, increasing learning gains, adding rigor to the standards and aligning with college readiness expectations. He indicated that a next step would be to expand capacity and admission into the adult education programs. G. Nee mentioned the importance of better accessibility to the programs by having a central place where prospective students can easily find information on adult education agencies providing services. J. Warner noted that Way to Go RI, a web portal hosted by the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA), was designed to provide information on secondary learning, careers and training and could include links to adult learning opportunities. A discussion followed regarding linking current information services to the Department of Labor & Training (DLT) One Stop centers which would provide another point of entry. J. Uvin will write up a proposal on centralized information options and present it to the committee at the next meeting.

FY 2010 Continuation Funding

J. Uvin noted that 2010 is the third and last year of the funding cycle of FY 2008 – FY 2010. He indicated there would be no changes in providers and that minor changes are proposed.

J. Uvin reviewed four recommendations for the committee. It was noted that these recommendations were not requests for additional funding but would be funded through the next year's budget using current resources.

1. Change the status of the Providence component of the Urban One Stop Career Center Literacy Initiative from demonstration project to grant status and increase funding to \$100,000.

2. Keep the Urban One Stop Literacy Initiatives in Pawtucket and Woonsocket in demonstration project status but make funding conditional upon meeting specific milestones. The original funding was set at \$100,000 and it is recommended to release not less than \$55,000 and up to \$75,000.

3. Change the status of the onramp component of the Interagency Demonstration Project on Aquidneck Island from demonstration project to grant status and allocate \$125,000 to this grant. Begin to collect accountability data into RIDE's MIS system.

4. Reduce, if needed, the funding levels of adult education grant recipients using the results of Annual Performance Review as a guide using a 10% harm limit which would ensure high performing programs will be able to maintain full funding.

Chair Warner asked for a motion to approve the four recommendations presented noting that the 4th recommendation does not apply to the items presented in 1,2 and 3.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. The motion passed.

J. Uvin provided an overview on requests for funding that will be presented to the Strategic Investments Committee on June 4th. This funding would assist in the development of system components related to strategies designated as critical per the strategic plan of the GWBRI.

Chair Warner prioritized the funding requests based on the recommendation of J. Uvin.

Priority 1: \$120,000 request for funding based on co-investment with the United Way and RIDE in a collaborative project to develop contextualized curricula for adult education. This is a one-time investment that could be funded by stimulus money.

Priority 2: \$75,000 request for funding with the expectation of co-investment with other agencies for a total of \$150,000 to test and evaluate the use of technology-based college preparation services for adults in transition to post secondary education/training focused on health care through partnerships.

Priority 3: \$50,000 challenge grant to be allocated to the Adult Education Office (RIDE) for the coordination of services and plan for service expansion to service foreign-born professionals in one additional sector deemed critical to the RI economy.

Chair Warner asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented.

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

Governor Carcieri's Charge to the Adult Education Committee

Chair Warner inquired about the expectation for the committee to report on recommendations regarding the next sequence of necessary adult education reforms to the PK – 16 Council at the September meeting. J. Uvin reported that the September meeting has been pushed back to November. Chair Warner suggested that an outline be drafted for discussion at the next Adult Education committee meeting.

J. Uvin asked committee members for their suggestions. He noted that there are at least 15 agreed upon strategies and objectives from the Strategic Workforce Plan for Rhode Island that relate to adult education. He proposed that a facilitated session with stakeholder groups could explore the strategies and suggestions as well as any suggestions of the committee. He noted

that the issue is expanding capacity since the system is built. Chair Warner suggested that before the session occurs, a planning document should be prepared to guide this discussion and should be structured around the defined goals. J. Uvin will prepare a draft in the next 2 weeks and send to committee for comment.

With no further business, Chair Warner asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney