

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI  
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2009**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Steven Maurano, Chair, Mario Bueno, Robert Nangle, Paul MacDonald, Robin Coia  
Committee Members Absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Armeather Gibbs, George Nee  
Others Present: Deborah Anthes, RIDE; Manuela Raposo, Director RIWBC; Susan Closter-Godoy, Dorcas Place, David Tremblay, DLT  
GWB Staff Present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

**Chairs Welcome and Remarks**

Chair Maurano called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Maurano mentioned his appointment as Interim Commissioner and Chair of the Adult Education & Literacy Committee.

**Approval of Minutes of 5/7/09**

Chair Maurano asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 5/7/09. A motion was entered to approve the Adult Education and Literacy Committee meeting minutes of May 7, 2009.

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

**Status of Governor Carcieri's Charge to Committee to Identify Recommendations for Further Reform**

Chair Maurano reported that Governor Carcieri recently charged the GWB Adult Education Committee with the development of a set of recommendations regarding the next sequence of necessary adult education reforms. He indicated that the Office of Adult and Career and Technical Education (RIDE) is in the process of establishing priorities and strategies for the next five years, to complete the series of reforms that began in 2005. With the implementation of recommendations from the GWB, this will result in increased access and greater outcomes for adult learners in the state. He asked Deborah Anthes from RIDE to provide a review of the timeline and deliverables for this effort.

D. Anthes noted that the proposed approach is to use the adult education objectives and strategies of the Strategic Workforce Plan for Rhode Island and include committee and stakeholder input via public hearings to propose specific tactics and activities. She noted that public comment on the next multi-year plan is timely due to the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and that a new multi-year state plan will be required under the new law. She noted that in preparation for the next funding cycle, the Adult Ed committee and Board of Regents have approved for public comment an Adult Education Consent Agenda that would enable RIDE staff to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP). She provided an overview including the timeline associated with this process.

### **Funding Request: RI Welcome Back Center (RIWBC)**

Chair Maurano introduced Manuela Raposo, Director of the RIWBC, and Susan Closter-Godoy, Director of Development for Dorcas Place. S. Closter-Godoy provided an overview of the center's current programs and services and the plan to build its capacity to help foreign-trained health professionals enter the RI workforce. She indicated that the funding request of \$125,000 would be used to provide partial support in its capacity building effort over the next three years. She noted that this funding would not only enable the Center to serve an expanded pool of health professionals, but would add an additional health-contextualized ESOL training class, and build the job and internship development component as part of their career and alternative pathway services. S. Closter-Godoy noted the collaboration among public and private partners including the 35 member Advisory Council and provided specific details on the outcomes which have assisted in sustaining and growing the Center. She reported on the Projected 12 Month Funding Plan for 2010 (included in the meeting packet) and noted the current effort to secure additional funding from the public and private sectors for 2011 and beyond.

M. Raposo provided further information on career and alternative pathway planning outcomes and participant employment status by profession and country. She shared two success stories of participants currently in the program and answered questions from committee members.

Due to his participation on the RIWBC Advisory Council, Chair Maurano recused himself from the vote. Chair Maurano asked for a motion to recommend funding in the amount of \$125,000.

**VOTE:** P. MacDonald moved to approve seconded by R. Coia. All approved.  
The motion passed.

N. Olson clarified that this vote would serve to recommend the funding to RIWBC which will now go to the Strategic Investments Committee and the full board for approval.

### **Other Business**

Chair Maurano indicated that an update regarding the development of a proposal for a public use information module was planned as part of today's meeting, noting it was a request of committee member, George Nee. Since both G. Nee and Johan Uvin were absent he decided that this discussion would be moved to the next meeting which is scheduled for November 12, 2009.

### **Adjournment**

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

**VOTE:** P. MacDonald moved to adjourn, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney