

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Planning and Evaluation Committee Meeting
August 31, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present:	William McGowan, Mario Bueno, Sandra Powell
Committee Members absent:	Paul MacDonald, Pheamo Witcher
GWB Staff present:	Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present:	David Tremblay, Jenn Buck, Connie Parks, Chris Grieco
Others present:	Jim Glover
Location:	RI Department of Labor & Training, Conference room 73-2

Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Meeting Minutes

A motion was entered to approve the meeting minutes of the March 9, 2010 Planning and Evaluation Committee.

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

Workforce Investment Notices

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay of the State Workforce Investment Office to review the following WIN notices:

Workforce Investment Notice: **09-21** Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) & Self-Sufficiency Guidelines for 2010

D. Tremblay explained that the LLSIL guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on family income for youth and for "priority of service" adults. The Self-Sufficiency Guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on a lack of self-sufficient wage for employed individuals.

Workforce Investment Notice: **09-22** Dislocated Worker Allocations for PY2010

D. Tremblay noted that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requires the Governor to prescribe the formula used in issuing allocations to the sub-state grantees and to assign weights to a set of five formula factors. This WIN lists the weights assigned to the formula factors for the PY-2010 Dislocated Worker allocations.

Workforce Investment Notice: **09-23** Changes in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Youth Allocations

D. Tremblay noted that this notice provides additional guidance on the State Workforce Investment Office plan to rescind a portion of the additional ARRA Youth funds previously distributed to the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island (WPGRI) and redistribute this portion to Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC).

Workforce Investment Notice: **10-01** Guidance on Job Seeker Hiring Process for Jobs Now RI

D. Tremblay noted this WIN transmits guidance on the process for hiring a qualified job seeker through the Jobs Now RI program, specifically an explanation of how the contract would be entered into.

Workforce Investment Notice: **10-02** Changes in Dislocated Worker Allocations for PY09/FY10

D. Tremblay noted that the purpose of this WIN is to provide guidance on the State Workforce Investment Office's distribution of additional Dislocated Worker monies to the WSPC.

With no further questions or discussion, Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the WIN notices as presented.

VOTE: M. Bueno moved to approve. Director Powell recused herself from the vote because she is the State WIA liaison. The motion did not pass.

Plan Extensions

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to review the plan extension information for RI's current Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act State Plan and waivers for Program Year (PY) 2010. He also reviewed the extensions for the WIA plans for the WPGRI and WSPC, indicating these plans are extended through June 30, 2011.

Waiver Requests U.S. Department of Labor

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to explain the waiver requests that have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL).

WIA Waiver Request: To Allow the State of Rhode Island to use Rapid Response Funds for Incumbent Worker Training. This would allow 20 percent of Rapid Response funds to be used to support RI Incumbent Worker Training activities in the context of layoff aversion. This waiver would provide Rhode Island with the needed flexibility to meet the growing need of employers who are experiencing difficulty during this economic downturn.

WIA Waiver Request: To Allow the State of Rhode Island to Waive Credential/Certificate Attainment for Participants in the On the Job Training Program. The goal of this waiver is to give the local workforce investment areas greater flexibility and access to use of the OJT program without having a negative impact on credential/certificate related performance standards.

WIA Waiver Request: To Allow the State of Rhode Island to Increase Employer Reimbursement for on the Job Training. This waiver provides the state with greater flexibility in responding to the local labor markets. WIA funds will be utilized in a manner that maximizes the state's response to the requests of businesses in need by delivering job training and workforce development services that are relevant to the local economy.

WIA Waiver Request: Discontinue the Collection of Seven of the Data Elements in Section 1 of the WIASRD for Incumbent Workers Trained with WIA Funds. This waiver would allow the State to discontinue the collection of seven of the data elements in Section 1 of the WIASRD for incumbent workers trained with State-level 15% or Rapid Response funds. This would reduce the collection burden for businesses served under WIA-funded incumbent worker training programs.

D. Tremblay reported that a public hearing on the waiver requests will be held on October 6, 2010. He indicated they would be brought before the Board after that time.

Legislation – Annual Unified Workforce Development Expenditure and Program Report

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to provide a brief overview of the legislation relating to the Annual Unified Workforce Development Expenditure and Program Report. D. Tremblay reported that the HRIC is required to produce an annual Unified Workforce Development Expenditure and Program report which must be submitted to the General Assembly beginning January 1, 2011. This report must cover activity from the previous fiscal year ending June 30th and should include information on expenditures by agencies for programs as well as the number of individuals served along with demographic information. (*reference p.4-5 of 2010—S2836*)

D. Tremblay mentioned the elimination of one of the annual reporting requirements and the funding provided for the Community College of Rhode Island (\$240,000). A discussion followed on possible connections between the Career Pathways Task Force and the Plan Management Team. It was noted that the appointments associated with the task force may occur after the transition in the Governor's office in January.

Plan Management Team (PMT) Update

Chair McGowan mentioned his concern of a disconnect with youth and adult education programs due to limited funding. He acknowledged the importance of the strategies, goals and objectives relating to both youth and adult education in the Strategic Plan and he indicated that a review of the progress of the plan should be done soon. He suggested that a meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee be convened to put the work of the plan back on track. Director Powell noted that during times of diminishing resources, the Strategic Plan has great value. She noted that not having the flexibility of Job Development Fund had an impact on summer programs. It was discussed that at the Strategic Investments Committee meeting scheduled for September 1st, decisions would be made on the investments identified as important and related to the Strategic Plan.

David Tremblay discussed the make-up of the Plan Management Team and indicated that team members need be identified due to staff changes including RIDE, the Workforce Cabinet and DLT. He also acknowledged the work of the PMT on reviewing the past 18 months of accomplishments after the adoption of the plan.

Regression Adjustment Performance Model Pilot Project

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to report on the Regression Adjustment Performance Model Pilot Project. D. Tremblay reported that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced the nine volunteer states selected to participate in this pilot project for adjusting performance targets for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I programs. Rhode Island was selected as one of the nine states. The project will allow the pilot states to examine the regression model, provide input to improve it, and address implementation issues. Director Powell acknowledged the hard work of the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO) on being accepted for this project.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chair McGowan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was entered to adjourn the meeting of the Planning and Evaluation committee.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mooney