

WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Strategic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2008

Members present: Paul Harden, Everett Amaral, Cynthia Farrell, Christine Grieco, Bob Cooper, Susan O'Donnell, Nancy Roderick, Jane Nugent

Members absent: John Iaderosa, Fred Ricci, Betty Pleacher, Fred Pendlebury

Others Attending: Mavis McGetrick

Staff present: Nick Ucci, Patrice Cavanaugh

With a quorum present, Chairman Paul Harden called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Committee Meeting Minutes:

A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2008 meeting.

VOTE: Bob Cooper moved to approve, seconded by Paul Harden. All approved.

ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

Industry Skill Development RFP:

Nick Ucci informed the committee that the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) had drafted a joint Industry Skills Development Initiative RFP. Nick stated that both LWIBs hoped to have the RFP available in early March 2008 for eligible Industry Partnerships and other industry group that meet the requirements of the RFP. He reported that the total allotment of JDF dollars funding this proposal is not yet known, but that the LWIBs were hoping to have an allocation to begin funding Industry Partnership work on July 1, 2008. Nick stated that the LWIBs hoped to fund up to four Industry Partnerships in the first year of the project and that each LWIB would take the lead on one or more Industry Partnerships appropriately aligned with each local area economy.

The committee reviewed the Draft RFP and asked that some of the language be changed in Section 6 paragraph 2, Section 6 Project Component 1, Project Component 2, Project Component 3, and Project Component 4. These changes were noted by staff and Nick stated that he would work to adopt the suggestions.

A motion was entered to approve the Draft RFP with the noted changes.

VOTE: Bob Cooper moved to approve, seconded by Sue O'Donnell. All approved.

USDOL STEM Grant Update:

Nick Ucci stated that discussions have taken place between the state's LWIBs regarding a joint application to the USDOL STEM grant.

He noted that this work would continue in the coming weeks and that staff would keep the Committee informed of progress.

Composite Repair & Boat Construction Training:

Chairman Harden informed the committee that CCRI would no longer be running the composite training program. He added that the New England Institute of Technology had filled this void by designing a comprehensive training program which would utilize facilities and equipments at Geotz Custom Boats in Bristol. He explained that, starting in March, the 200 hour training program would be offered to appropriate candidates as an ITA-eligible program. Chairman Harden told the committee that upon completion of the training, successful graduates would be industry certified and would also receive credits toward a NEIT degree.

ETPL Update:

Nick Ucci provided the committee with updated information on approved training programs listed on the state's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). He informed the committee that, per the Board's approval at its last meeting, the ITA cap had been increased to \$4,000 on February 15, 2008. Nick also distributed a list of 30 training programs at CCRI that would soon be added to the Eligible

Training Provider List, expanding the scope of training programs available to eligible WIA clients.

Jane Nugent asked about eligibility for organizations that offer training programs. Mavis McGetrick from the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO) stated that the process was open and that other organizations could indeed apply if they meet the stated criteria. Mavis stated that the two LWIBs and SWIO are working to streamline the ETPL process and investigating the potential of making the process electronic.

Jane Nugent noted that she felt it was important to provide participants with information on aspects of the job that they are interested in to insure suitability. Nick Ucci informed the committee of the abundance of information provided by the Labor Market Information (LMI) unit, and how members could sign-up for the LMI Stat Track email newsletter at the RI Department of Labor's website. Nick stated that he would email additional LMI information to Committee members.

H1B Update:

Nick Ucci stated that the grant had been extended through June 30, 2008 and that approximately \$182,000 would be available for training activities. He stated that the money would be divided among worker components and that these discussions were on-going.

New Business:

Chairman Paul Harden informed the committee that there would be a presentation on the Apprenticeship initiative at the next meeting.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice Cavanaugh