

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Strategic Development Committee Minutes

October 17, 2008

Present: Paul Harden, Susan O'Donnell, Bob Cooper, Jane Nugent, and Nancy Roderick.

Guests and Staff: Kathie Shields, Melissa Punchak, Helder Videira, Christine Grieco, Jen Cornwell, and Gail DuPont.

Absent: Everett Amaral, John Iaderosa, Betty Pleacher, Fred Ricci, Kim Weiss, and Allen Durand.

Without a quorum, Chair Paul Harden called the meeting to order at approximately 8:35 A.M.

ISDI Presentation – IT Industry

Paul Harden introduced Kathie Shields of Tech Collective who is one of the partners in the Industry Skills Development Initiative (ISDI) grant representing the IT sector. Kathie explained that Tech Collective is an industry association working for technology growth, innovation and prosperity by uniting industry, government and education. She stated the workforce development program includes incumbent workers, transitioning workers, youth, and employers. As an industry partner they utilized knowledge of a skills gap study, pilot programs and other initiatives to recommend training and development, industry presence at the One-Stop Centers, greenhouse

youth activities, and career awareness. Tech Collective has developed a management system for capturing and tracking data and activity. This easy to use system can document procedures for overall management, reporting, procurement, and policies. Kathie acknowledged that they would be willing to share this management system with the other partners for a nominal fee to cover their expenses. Paul asked if Kathie could come again in the spring to report on deliverables such as the time-line and budget which is the broader responsibility of this committee to oversee that aspect of the grant program.

Adult Training Program Update

Paul reminded everyone that the model for the Customized Training Program was approved at the last meeting. However, when it was presented to the Executive Committee, they raised concerns about the rating scale and how it may not necessarily be evenly balanced for very small employers. They suggested changing the qualifier rating score to a percentage of the base workforce. The Executive Committee approved the program subject to a new rating scale, which Jen Cornwell will revise.

ISDI Update Paul stated a presentation by the marine trades will take place at the November committee meeting. The partners met last week with the staffs of the One-Stop and Youth Centers and will have a presence in the One-Stop Centers this week.

Paul requested a schedule of when and where the partners are going

to be at the One-Stop Centers. A RFP should be issued in a couple of weeks from the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston for the video component of the initiative.

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OJT Program.

Paul announced that he will meet with John O'Hare next week in an effort to incorporate the OJT component with ISDI. Paul is still concerned that this is being offered for only four sectors and the lack of staffing is also an issue.

Jen stated that there is another updated ETPL list in your packets.

Being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail DuPont

Administrative Assistant