

**RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2009**

The fourth meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Commission (the Commission) was held on Friday, September 25, 2009, in Public Session in the office of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Armeather Gibbs, Chair; J. Michael Saul; Rep. Joseph Almeida; Diane St. Laurent; Sandra Powell; Leslie Taito; and William McGowan.

Those absent include Christopher Wissemann; Eileen Farley; Paul Harrington. Sen. Daniel Connors; Rep. Gordon Fox; and Robert Shea were absent but sent their representatives Marie Ganim, Beth Cotter, and Robin Smith respectively.

Staff Present included; Fred Hashway, Paul Harden and Kristen Coogan.

Mr. Julian Alssid and Ms. Maureen Bozell of Workforce Strategy Center facilitated the meeting and Ms. Gibbs presided.

**Welcome**

Ms. Gibbs called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. She welcomed everyone and stressed that they begin, as the day had a full agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the June 19, 2009 meeting were approved upon a motion duly made by William McGowan and seconded by J. Michael Saul.

**Workforce Strategy Center Agreement**

The Workforce Strategy Center Agreement, a work-plan between the CCRI Commission and Workforce Strategy Center (WSC), was accepted upon a motion duly made by Michael Saul and seconded by William McGowan. It was made clear that WSC would not be compensated by the CCRI Commission and this agreement is a formal operational agreement that had been previously discussed by the Commission.

### **Update on Focus Groups, Findings to Date and Preliminary Recommendations**

Ms. Armeather Gibbs then turned the floor over to Ms. Maureen Bozell to walk the group through the work that had been ongoing during the summer months. Ms. Bozell stated that many interviews took place, focus groups were held and lots of information from the public was received. After conducting this initial step, information gathering, retrieving feedback from the Commission is now very important.

Ms. Bozell and Mr. Julian Alssid then presented their work. The agenda items covered were as follows: Overview, Initial Findings/Challenges, Preliminary Recommendations, Defining Work Ahead, Next Steps. Three challenges that emerged from the research conducted by Workforce Strategy Center were, 1. CCRI is faced with multiple strategic workforce development goals that lack a systemic approach; 2. CCRI lacks the necessary funding/resources to build its capacity to meet Rhode Island's workforce development needs; and 3. CCRI's relationship with the Rhode Island employer community and industry needs a strategic focus.

Ms. Gibbs then addressed the group, saying that the background work is done and now the critical work can begin. Hearing the concerns and recommendations from the Commission, after viewing the preliminary findings, is the most important factor. The Commission was asked to express any thoughts, concerns, or recommendations to the WSC by the next meeting so the group can be fully prepared to move forward.

### **Next Steps**

The next steps were delivered by Ms. Bozell. These steps are to complete reconnaissance, finalize the current findings, draft recommendations for the CCRI Commission's review and to deliver a final report.

The next meeting of the CCRI Commission will be held on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 in the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.