

**Governor's Workforce Board RI**  
**Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting**  
**July 10, 2012**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Mario Bueno, Constance Howes, William McGowan, George Nee  
Committee Members absent: Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb  
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Maureen Mooney  
DLT Staff present: Val Lombardi, Paul Genovesi, Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Sue Chomka, Kathy Quattrini  
Others Present: Tom Costello, CCRI; Heidi Collins, Connecting Children & Families

**Call to Order**

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the June 5, 2012 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting. He asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by C. Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed.

**Budget Update**

Chair McGowan asked Diane Gagne to provide a budget update. D. Gagne referred to the handout entitled "GWBRI Financial Analysis" which details available funding, expenditures and anticipated carry-forward from FY09 through FY13. She stated that the final FY12 figures would be available in a couple of weeks and that today's information is based on projections. She noted the \$2.3M that was taken out of the legislative budget last year and added back to FY12. D. Gagne stated that the unobligated funding to start the fiscal year is currently \$2.6M and explained this could be revised after the fiscal year closing.

**Additional FY13 Investments**

Chair McGowan asked Rick Brooks to present information on additional investments for FY13. R. Brooks clarified that the \$2.3M is a one time source of funds restored to the GWB/JDF budget and carried into this fiscal year. He indicated that the bulk of the meeting would be devoted to a discussion on how this funding could be utilized.

R. Brooks indicated that within the next month, an update would be provided on the pilot programs affiliated with the GWB Jobs Initiative approved by the board earlier in the year. He noted these programs provide short-term training, internships and hiring incentives leading to jobs in health care, information technology, hospitality and defense companies.

R. Brooks reviewed the hand-out "Solicitation of Innovative Ideas for the GWB Jobs Initiative" and indicated the goal is to request innovative ideas that have a high probability of resulting in jobs for unemployed or underemployed Rhode Islanders. He explained that the solicitation announcement would be sent out through constant contact with responses due back by July 31<sup>st</sup>. He indicated that any ideas would be brought before the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee at the August meeting for further discussion. R. Brooks stated that funding for this solicitation is based on a budget of \$1M for FY2013 and could expand on the Jobs Initiative originated during FY12.

R. Brooks reviewed a handout listing current FY2013 GWB budget allocations and obligations and possible investment strategies offered for discussion relating to the \$2.3M of restored JDF funds. Connie Howes noted the importance of looking for innovative ideas as well as providing a support system to those unemployed or underemployed. She commented that if there were not any new ideas then the funding could be added to already existing budget categories.

George Nee noted the importance of looking at these systems, of meeting with the Governor and staff to develop a more comprehensive approach in providing workforce development services and connecting with other state agencies. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Governor to advise him of GWB efforts and to ask for his support in the preparation of the FY14 budget relating to the indirect cost recovery charges of the Job Development Fund (JDF). He felt it was important to get on record regarding this issue.

G. Nee offered several ideas on suggested investment strategies including:

- ♦ Increase Adult Education by \$500,000
- ♦ Provide funding in the amount of \$700,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Incumbent Worker Training Grants (IWTG). He suggested a January release of an RFP.
- ♦ Increase FY13 Job Initiative funding to \$1.5M. He stated this could be contingent on the successful outcomes of the FY12 Jobs Initiative.

G. Nee stated that the above funding totals \$1.7M leaving \$1M in reserve for other investments. He suggested the \$1.7M be utilized in 2-3 areas that have the most impact on creating jobs.

R. Brooks spoke of other possible areas to consider for investment strategies. He stated that in previous years some of the Industry Partners received funding for direct training. He indicated that no funds have currently been budgeted for this and that there is a request for over \$250,000 from some of the Partners for new and incumbent worker training. He acknowledged the need for further funding of the Youth Centers in connecting career and technical education to employers and for work readiness and credentialing efforts.

Other suggestions on investment strategies were offered. Nancy Olson suggested reinstating the Workforce Expansion Grant Program and explained the background and process behind this. She suggested they could be renamed Business Investment Grants which could possibly be delivered through the Business Workforce Center. Other suggestions to modify this program included making it conditional to hire the unemployed, requiring a 50/50 match, limiting the funds to \$5,000 and for a six month period of time.

George Nee suggested the following additions to the investment strategies:

- An additional \$250,000 to the Industry Partners for training
- An additional \$250,000 to Youth services
- An additional \$500,000 to the FY13 Jobs Initiative
- \$300,000 be set aside for the Business Expansion Grant Program.

R. Brooks clarified that the committee will not be voting at this meeting on the additional FY13 investments since it is posted as a discussion item on the agenda. He indicated that the goal is to develop concepts over the next few weeks with input from the board.

C. Howes indicated her support for the suggestions offered by G. Nee noting that further discussion will occur at the August Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee and at the August board meeting.

### **Manufacturing Industry Partnership**

Chair McGowan asked Nancy Olson to present the information on the Manufacturing Industry Partnership. N. Olson referred to the technical review of the proposals that were submitted in response to the Industry Partnership RFP for manufacturing. She reported that proposals were received from the RI Manufacturing Extension Services (RIMES) and the RI Manufacturing Association (RIMA). She explained the review and rating process and noted that the proposal from RIMES with a score of 87.33 will be awarded the contract. She stated that the RIMA proposal scored 79.00 and will not be considered for funding since only one contract will be awarded. C. Howes inquired about the deliverables from the RIMES proposal. N. Olson indicated outcomes include a skills gap study, an operational plan which describes career pathways, and the hiring of a project manager. She added that RIMES plans to hold a manufacturing summit and establish an advisory group.

Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion to approve the recommendation that RIMES be awarded the Manufacturing Industry Partnership.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve and recommended funding up to \$100,000 for the partnership. This was seconded by C. Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed.

### **Funding Formula Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Area**

Chair McGowan asked Connie Howes to present information on the request for an alternate formula for the Sub-State allocation of WIA funds. C. Howes explained that in March of 2012 the GWB received a request from Workforce Solutions of Providence Cranston to adopt an alternative funding formula to allocate Adult and Youth WIA funds to the two Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs). She stated that the State Workforce Investment Office (SWIO) undertook an audit of both LWIBs to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of each. She summarized the findings noting that both LWIBs were operating efficiently and providing important services to their clients. She stated that the alternative funding formula is a “zero sum game” in which one local WIB’s gain would be equal to the other local WIB’s loss. She stated that after considering the positions of each WIB, and the audit findings it was determined there is no compelling reason to change the funding formula. It was suggested that this issue could be reviewed next year if the closing of the Pawtucket One Stop Center has an impact on the work of the WIBS and if it becomes a compelling reason for the use of an alternative formula. D. Tremblay reported that the DLT Legal Counsel reviewed federal regulations regarding the consolidation of both LWIBs. He indicated that obstacles do exist but will continue to be looked at.

After discussion, Chair McGowan asked if there was a motion regarding the alternate funding formula. A motion was made as follows.

The Governor’s Workforce Board shall advise the Governor that both local WIBS perform important services in an effective and efficient manner, yet have insufficient resources to serve their client need, and that a sufficiently compelling public interest has not been demonstrated to adopt the alternative funding formula requested by Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. The GWB further recommends that the Governor encourage collaboration between the two local WIBs and explore the possibility of combination of both.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve and seconded by M. Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed.

## **Workforce Investment Notices (WINs)**

Chair McGowan asked David Tremblay to provide a review of the WINs:

### **Item 1: Workforce Investment Notice 10-25: change 1 WIA Certification Process for Eligible Training Programs/Providers**

This issuance provides additional guidance regarding WIA certificates and training programs relating to the Eligible Training Provider application. Applicants are asked to provide additional information, such as job placement activities and the qualifications of staff.

### **Item 2: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-17 Record Retention Policy for Participant Files**

This issuance communicates to Local Areas the record retention policy and procedures for participant files and programmatic reports under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

### **Item 3: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-18 Allocations for Youth Programs for PY 2012 from the Job Development fund**

This issuance provides Locals with the Job Development Fund (JDF) Summer Youth Program allocations for PY2012 (FY2013) using the WIA formula and Youth Center allocations to be evenly distributed among all Youth Centers.

### **Item 4: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-19 Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) Funding Allocations for the Summer Employment Opportunities for Youth Programs for Program Year (PY) 2012**

This issuance will provide Local Areas with TANF allocations for the PY 2012 Summer Employment Opportunities for Youth Program.

### **Item 5: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-20 Re-allotment of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title 1 Formula-Allotted Funds for Dislocated Worker Activities**

This issuance provides adjusted funding levels for Program Year (PY) 2011 allotments for the Dislocated Worker program under WIA Title 1 Section 132(c) on recapture and re-allotment.

### **Item 6: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-21 PY2010 Incentive Awards for Performance and Sanctions**

This issuance provides information concerning the distribution of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) incentive funds for achieving negotiated levels of performance for PY2010 and sanctions for failing to meet negotiated levels.

### **Item 7: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-22 Program Year 2012 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Local Plans**

This issuance notifies Local Areas of the Program Year 2012 planning process.

### **Item 8: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-23 Allocation Percentages for Dislocated Worker Program for PY2012**

This issuance provides guidance on the allocation percentages for PY12 and the Distribution Formula Worksheet that identifies the computational process used to arrive at the percentages.

### **Item 9: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-24 Allocation Percentages for Adult and Youth Programs for PY 2012 per TEGl 19-11**

This issuance provides guidance and background information on the allocation percentages for the adult and youth programs for PY2012.

### **Item 10: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-25 Allocations for Adult and Youth Programs for PY2012**

This issuance provides Locals with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Youth allocations for PY2012 and additional information.

**Item 11: Workforce Investment Notice: 11-26 Dislocated Worker Allocations for PY 2012**

This issuance provides guidance on the Dislocated Worker Allocations for PY2012.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney