



Governor's Workforce Board Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee

July 10, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Mike Grey, Chair, Constance Howes, George Nee, Mario Bueno
Committee Members Absent: Cheryl Merchant, Martin Trueb
GWB Board Members Present: Charles Fogarty
GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, Sherri Carello, Hillary Feeney, Amelia Roberts, Dan Brown
DLT Staff Present: Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, Nancy Olson
Others Present: Cheryl Dacosta, Tech Collective; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Sue Midwood, Healthcentric Advisors; Philip Less, RIDE; Kathy Therieau, Commerce RI
Location: Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Grey called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair Grey asked for a review of the June 3, 2014 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Constance Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

Chair Grey asked Rick Brooks to provide an overview of new legislative changes pertaining to the Governor's Workforce Board. R. Brooks highlighted the elimination of the Indirect Cost Recovery resulting in an additional \$1.2 - \$1.3 million that will be available for the GWB to invest in workforce development. He discussed a press release published on July 9, 2014 describing the new responsibilities of the Governor's Workforce Board to oversee workforce development throughout the state and encourage system-wide coordination in conjunction with a statewide workforce development strategic plan. C. Howes acknowledged the expertise, direction, and administrative framework the Department of Labor and Training provides to the GWB. C. Fogarty noted the Governor's focus on collaboration among all entities and described the structural changes to the Governor's Workforce Board in the new legislation. R. Brooks stated the Work Immersion statute was amended to include recent college graduates, public sector employers, and the maximum number of hours was increased to 400.

Financial Update

Chair Grey asked Diane Gagne to provide a preliminary year-end financial update. D. Gagne reported by September the FY14 budget should be finalized. Referring to the financial analysis spreadsheet, D. Gagne discussed the FY2014 program availability (\$15,838,175), external contract allocations (\$15,790,277), and anticipated carry-forward (\$47,897) into FY2015. She

discussed the FY2014 expenditures, FY2015 program availability (\$11,732,519) and anticipated carry-in (\$1,322,519). She noted the over-obligation of Jobs Initiatives funds in FY14 will reduce the FY15 funds available for contracts to \$290,500. D. Gagne stated a request will be made to re-appropriate the \$200,000 balance of General Revenue Work Immersion funds to FY15. She highlighted the indirect cost recovery has been removed from the FY15 budget and is reflected in the total availability. The committee discussed the DOR/Employer Tax and DOA centralization line items and a timeline of when and how to allocate the additional funds. The committee agreed to bring some investment options to the full Board at the Retreat on October 16, 2014.

Industry Partnership Grants

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to discuss the FY15 Industry Partnership Grant recommendations. Referring to the recommendations spreadsheet, S. Carello noted the Board allocated \$1.25 million for the Industry Partnership RFP. S. Carello explained the RFP process, highlighting the Board had previously agreed to fund one Healthcare Industry Partner this round, instead of three. She noted a total of nine proposals were received and seven did not have any competition within their industry. C. Howes inquired about the readers' background. S. Carello noted the readers came from several state agencies and local businesses, and those that read the healthcare proposals were knowledgeable in the industry and did not have any direct conflict with the applicants. S. Carello noted two additional proposals, submitted by OIC and the Arc of Bristol County, were not included in the review process as they were not industry specific and more inline with the Innovative Grant Partnership RFP requirements.

Sean Fontes, Executive Counsel, asked for declarations on any of the voting matters before the committee for conflicts of interest. He explained that committee members should avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest according to the RI State Code of Ethics and Governor's Workforce Board By-Laws. He stated that committee members who disclose a conflict should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion.

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to review the feedback and reader comments of the two healthcare proposals. S. Carello highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, noting that the readers felt the Healthcentric proposal was too narrow and were non-responsive to many of the sections of the RFP. G. Nee asked for clarification on the budget and requested a breakout of core and training activities on the financial spreadsheet.

Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the following FY15 Industry Partnerships:

Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA)
Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA)
Tech Collective (IT)
Tech Collective (Bioscience)
RI Hospitality Education Foundation
University of RI Research Foundation/Polaris MEP

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Constance Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve Stepping Up as the sole Healthcare Industry Partner for FY2015.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Mario Bueno. Constance Howes abstained from the vote. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve the Building Futures/Providence Plan Industry Partnership proposal.

VOTE: Constance Howes moved to approve, seconded by Mario Bueno. George Nee abstained from the vote. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

R. Brooks acknowledged the work and commitment of Healthcentric Advisors and the Hospital Association of RI as Healthcare Industry Partners.

Commerce RI Export Training Contract Extension Request

Chair Grey asked Kathy Therieau to discuss the Commerce RI Export Training Contract Extension Request. Kathy Therieau referred to the extension request letter, noting 142 individuals have been trained through the 34 grants awarded under contract G-772. She stated, a total of \$52,425 has been allocated of the total \$80,000 awarded. K. Therieau noted the grant will expire June 30, 2014 and Commerce RI is requesting the Export Program contract be extended to the end of 2014. C. Howes inquired about the outreach used to market the program. K. Therieau noted the program is featured in the GWB e-Newsletter and a seminar will be hosted in August to get the word out and generate more interest. The committee discussed future funding and the process of issuing contracts to companies. Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to approve a no-cost extension of the Commerce RI Export Training Program through the end of 2014.

VOTE: Mario Bueno moved to approve, seconded by Constance Howes. George Nee abstained from the vote. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates

Express Grants

Chair Grey asked Sherri Carello to provide a year-end update on the FY14 Express Grant Program. S. Carello referred to the program update handout and discussed the performance data and industry breakdown from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. She noted companies were allowed to apply more than once a year up to \$5,000, and expressed her concern with the lack of youth work experiences (14). S. Carello stated the new application for FY15 has been posted and is very similar to the FY14 process.

Work Immersion

Chair Grey asked Hillary Feeney to provide an update on the FY14 Work Immersion Program. H. Feeney referred to the program update handouts for both College Students and Unemployed Adults, noting funding for college students internships is much larger than unemployed adult work experiences, mainly due to the College Student piece beginning earlier in the fiscal year. She reviewed the performance data and industry breakdown and discussed the outreach plan for FY15. The committee further discussed the new changes to the program and the connection between bRIdge.jobs and the Work Immersion Program. G. Nee commended the GWB staff on the updated performance handouts and asked for the reports to be posted on the website and distributed to partners and lawmakers more frequently.

Building Futures Non-Trade Apprenticeship Program

R. Brooks announced the second of the two Non-Trade Apprenticeship Programs, Building Futures, was approved by the State Apprenticeship Council and will be invited to present at one of the monthly Board meetings to provide an overview of their program.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Grey asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Constance Howes. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts