



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND

BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 19, 2016 RI Department of Labor & Training 1511 Pontiac Ave, Cranston, RI 8:00 – 9:30 am

ATTENDANCE

Board Members (*Denotes not present)

Suzanna Alba*, Mario Bueno, Timothy Byrne*, Channavy Chhay, Robin Coia, Monica Dzialo, Constance A. Howes, *Chair*, John Gregory, Mike Grey*, Stefan Pryor, *Vice Chair*, Scott Jensen, Steve Kitchin, Paul MacDonald, Cheryl Merchant*, George Nee, Janet Raymond*, Nina Pande, Susan Rittscher, Bahjat Shariff *, Martin Trueb*, Ken Wagner*

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Kristen McKenna, David Tremblay, Amelia Roberts.

DLT Staff: Joseph Agresti, Sue Chomka, Diane Gagne and Robert Kalaskowski, Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally, Mallory McMahan, Michael Martins, Nancy Olson, Sarah Blusiewicz.

Guests: Alexis Stern, UWRI, Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Ruth Gobeille, Polaris MEP, Philip Less, RIDE; Katuska Perez, Senate Policy Office, Jill Holloway, PDC, Richard Palmiere, Doug Tingle, Cheryl DeCosta, Tech Collective, Stephen Osborn, RIDE, Tim Harrigan,

Call to Order

Chair Constance Howes called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Howes wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chair Howes asked Sean Fontes, RI Department of Labor & Training, General Counsel to update the Board on the Rules & Regulations of recusing themselves from any personal matter when voting.

Due to a conflict on interest. Steve Kitchin recused himself from the ETPL vote on the Consent Agenda.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

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

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes noted the GWB Annual Report is completed and will be available on-line shortly. Chair Howes mentioned the GWB Annual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at a location to be determined.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Executive Director Rick Brooks to provide an update on GWB Programs. Rick noted the Comprehensive Systems Improvement Plan for Workforce Development in Rhode Island was completed and submitted by the Governor's Workforce Board. Rick noted since the launch of the (Rolling) Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program as of July 1, 2015, 82 companies were funded, \$900,000 has been awarded for 2,800 workers to be trained. This is new grant process is working well. Rick noted the Real Jobs RI program has launch and has awarded grants to 26 partnerships. Rick mentioned the new

youth after-school pilot program that is being developed with the following school districts: Chariho, Woonsocket, Providence, Newport. Each CTE school will provide sector-specific training. Robin Coia and Nina Pandeia are taking the lead on this for the GWB, in partnership with the two local workforce boards.

Committee Chairs' Reports

Executive Committee

Chair Howes provided an update on the Executive Committee. Chair Howes highlighted the Comprehensive Systems Improvement Plan. Chair Howes mentioned the proposed new policy for Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL). George Nee asked whether there is a current list for the ETPL, and whether the current training providers will remain on the list. Rick noted that training providers are eligible to remain on the list, but will be required to report outcomes (eg, credentials and employment) for all trainees (WIA-funded and non-WIA funded) in order to remain on the list. There are no specific performance standards currently. George asked if the Board get a list of who is currently on the list. Rick stated yes, and noted that it is available on-line.

Chair Howes asked for a motion to approve the Draft WIOA Certification for Eligible Training Providers Program.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by John Gregory. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously. (Steve Kitchin recused himself from voting on this motion.)

Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee. Rick reported that on January 14, 2016, committee members unanimously approved the recommendation to allocate anticipated FY2017 JDF revenue as described in the Consent Agenda handout. The Committee also discussed its expanding role in tracking and evaluating performance data for both GWB and Real Jobs RI.

Chair Howes asked for a motion to approve the proposed FY2017 budget allocations.

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

Career Pathways Advisory Committee

Chair Howes asked Monica Dzialo to report on the Career Pathways Advisory Committee. Chair Dzialo noted the Career Pathways committees are now meeting every other month on Friday's. The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 8:30 am in DLT conference room 73-1. Chair Dzialo noted the committee has created several sub committee's chaired by Kristen McKenna, which will focus on career coaching, system integration, metrics, and other elements of career pathways.

Employer Committee

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update on the Employer Committee on behalf of Chair Martin Trueb. Rick reported that the Employer Committee discussed its future role. The Committee will continue to do outreach to RI businesses through its Employer Advisory Goup, and will invite new CCRl President Megan Hughes to the next EAG meeting.

Adult Education & Literacy Committee

Chair Howes asked Susan Rittscher to provide an update on behalf of the Adult Education & Literacy Committee. Chair Rittscher reported that the Committee discussed the United Way Report. She noted that she has received some great feedback from Committee members and thought it would be helpful to have an additional follow-up meeting to discuss the Report, and the role of the GWB, in more detail. Chair Rittscher pointed out that the state is only able to serve approximately 5,000 adult learners per year, and that there are many more RI adults who speak limited English and/or who did not complete high school. The next Adult Education committee meeting will be on February 23 at 8:30 am in DLT room 73-2.

Comprehensive System Improvement Plan (CSIP)

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide an update. Rick noted that the GWB and Public Works (CSIP consultants) received many recommendations for the CSIP. Rick noted that the purpose of CSIP was to identify gaps in services, and develop a plan to address barriers and challenges so that employers are able to find the workers they need when they need them; workers are able to acquire the skills, training and support they need to obtain good jobs and careers; and governance is coordinated, adequately and flexibly funded and accountable. The three overarching CSIP recommendations were: 1) create a “network” of public and private services that is 2) responsive to business-led, sector-based partnerships that 3) prepare workers for real jobs. Rick also reported that there is now a helpful interactive map on the GWB website that was completed as part of the CSIP that shows where public dollars are spent, who is served, what services are provided, and what outcomes are achieved.

WIOA Planning Update

Chair Howes asked Sarah Blusiewicz, Senior Advisor to the DLT Director, to provide an update on the development of the WIOA state plan. Sarah noted that WIOA presents an opportunity to produce a practical, actionable plan. The federal government would like to see a comprehensive multi-partner plan. Sarah indicated that vision and strategy sections of the WIOA plan will align with the recently completed Comprehensive System Improvement Plan (CSIP), reinforcing our commitment to meet job seekers where they are, and to improve how we connect people to jobs and careers. Sarah noted that the WIOA plan incorporates the mutual planning requirements of our partners. For example the Unemployment Insurance Program’s strategic plan will be integrated in to the WIOA document. The plan is due at the end of March. She will share a draft with the GWB Board at the February 18, 2016 meeting. M. Bueno asked if DLT is planning to highlight how the new plan is different from previous ones. He noted it would make it easier for the public to understand the new direction. Sarah agreed that this was a great idea.

Workforce Innovation Grant Presentation: Genesis Center and CharterCare

Chair Howes asked Natalie Lopes, First Source Director, City of Providence to update the Board. Natalie introduced Liz Hanke, Genesis Workforce Coordinator. Jean Wiberg Human Resources recruiter and Amanda Mederios, Genesis center Medical Assistant student.

Natalie noted their role is to find people in the City of Providence and work with them on job needs. They turned to the Genesis Center to address the needs of the CharterCare health systems. The Genesis Center is one of the GWB Workforce Innovation grantees. Liz gave the Board an update on her role at the Genesis Center. She is meeting regularly with CharterCare regarding the various needs they have such as Medical Assistance, Health Services, and Dietary Services. Liz noted the 2nd round of training and internships will start soon and will include First Aid and the National Career Readiness Certificate. She stated the internship program has been well structured and very beneficial. The students in the CharterCare Program have been offered employment upon completion. The supervisor and follow up has been great. The only challenge is the number of people served. This past year enrollment has been low. Jean noted she does all the placement, and fills jobs and is the Genesis main contact in the partnership. She works with the Elmhurst Extended Care. She stated the Genesis Center has been excellent to work with. Amanda noted she went through the Genesis Center Medical Assistant program. She has to complete a 15 week program with the Genesis Center, and has 2 weeks to go. Amanda noted she will then do a 6 week with internship at one of CharterCare medical offices. Chair Howes thanked the group.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Steve Kitchin moved to approve, seconded by John Gregory. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown

*GWB Board Meeting
January 20, 2016*