

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**January 17, 2013**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS (\*DENOTES NOT PRESENT)**

Mario Bueno*	Juana Horton (S) *	Robert Nangle (S)
Robin Coia	Constance A. Howes	George Nee
Ray DiPasquale (S)	Paul MacDonald	Cathy Streker*
Charles J. Fogarty (S)	William McGowan	Martin Trueb
Deborah Gist (S)	Brandon Melton	Pheamo Witcher
Mike Grey*	Sharon Moylan (S)	

Governor Lincoln D. Chafee was in attendance.

*(S) denotes State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) only*

**GWB Staff:** Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Maureen Mooney

**DLT Staff:** Diane Gagne, David Tremblay, Sean Fontes, Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Matt Weldon

**Guests:** Linda Katz, Irena Nedeljkovic, Economic Progress Institute; Mark Perrotti, Jim Glover, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Philip Less, RIDE; Jill Holloway, Adult Education Professional Development Center; Michael Hogan, RI House Policy Office; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Abby Swienton, Governor's Office, Paul Harden, RIEDC; Heidi Collins, Connecting for Children & Families; Robin Adams, RI Professional Development Center; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Alisson Walsh, Stuart Frieman, RIEDC

**Location:** RI Department of Labor and Training, conference room 73-1

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Governor's Workforce Board meeting. She welcomed Governor Chafee to the meeting.

**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on November 15, 2012.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** P. MacDonald moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. November 15, 2012 meeting minutes approved.

**Chair's Comments**

Chair Howes spoke about the Biennial Plan recently submitted to the legislature. She mentioned the 4 key areas of alignment including establishing partnerships, developing credentials for work readiness skills, establishing state wide career pathways and evaluating the effectiveness on the workforce system. She stated there will be quarterly reports presented to the board in February, June and October to monitor the progress made against objectives of the Biennial Plan.

Chair Howes informed the board that she, Director Fogarty and Rick Brooks recently met with the RI Foundation as a follow up to the Make It Happen forum held this past fall. She spoke about key goals which include: revamping the EmployRI website to make it more user-friendly; conducting a marketing campaign to focus on what is good in Rhode Island; and establishing a research collaborative effort between the universities and colleges in Rhode Island.

Chair Howes mentioned a recent meeting with Bill Parsons of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC). She indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to ensure that RIEDC and the GWB are jointly engaged with the State Strategic Plan and efforts to enhance Rhode Island's business climate. She spoke of the recent collaborative effort of GWB and RIEDC with the company Tunstall to hire unemployed Rhode Islanders. She mentioned their discussion about developing the advanced manufacturing industry sector and their shared sense of optimism with future growth of this industry.

### **Remarks from Governor Lincoln D. Chafee**

Governor Chafee welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke about the previous evening's annual State of the State Address. The Governor noted his proposed investment of several million dollars for new job training and the goal to cut the state's corporate tax rate to increase hiring and make Rhode Island more competitive. Governor Chafee spoke about the importance of creating a qualified workforce, of investing in education, infrastructure and workforce development noting all were included in his proposed budget.

Governor Chafee spoke about the \$3M he proposed for internships, apprenticeships and grants to employers to train workers with the goal of ensuring more talent remains in the state. The Governor noted that the budget proposal would invest \$3M over two years, starting immediately with \$1M in the current fiscal year and \$2M in the fiscal year 2014.

George Nee praised the governor's proposed budget for supporting job-training programs and stated that this is the first time since 1991 that general revenue funds have been allocated to job training in Rhode Island. He stated the budget proposal is recognition of the important connection between work-force development training and job creation. Chair Howes acknowledged the Governor's awareness with the urgency of having this funding available for the citizens of Rhode Island.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to provide the Executive Director's report. R. Brooks shared his appreciation for the Governor's commitment to workforce development in the state. He provided an update on the initiatives derived from the priorities of the Biennial Plan.

R. Brooks indicated that the first ten Express Grants have been approved for a total of approximately \$50,000. He noted that 4 companies will receive a bonus which will reduce their matching contribution as they will be offering student internships.

R. Brooks mentioned the Innovative partnership grants and provided an overview of the RFP process noting that two pre-proposal conferences were held in December and January. He stated that the deadline for submitting proposals is February 6<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that these grants must include both an experiential learning component as well as a work readiness component.

R. Brooks spoke about the GWB Internship Initiative which will include students as well as unemployed adults in the programs. He reported that a second meeting was recently held to promote the internship effort in Rhode Island and that a key next step will include developing strategies for the Governor's Work Immersion Program. George Nee mentioned the hiring subsidy provided to the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB) for the unemployed.

### **GWB Staff Changes**

Chair Howes asked R. Brooks to provide an update on GWB staff changes. R. Brooks reported that Nancy Olson has assumed the position of Executive Director of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. He reported that Maureen Mooney has accepted a position in the RIDLT section of Temporary Disability Insurance and will be transferring to that position in the next few weeks.

### **Unified Workforce Development Expenditure & Program Report**

Chair Howes asked Elizabeth Jardine to report on the Unified Workforce Development Expenditure & Program Report (UEP). E. Jardine provided an overview of the report explaining this reporting requirement is in response to a request from the legislature. She stated that the current UEP report was submitted after the Biennial Plan. She explained that in the future submissions, the UEP will be submitted first followed by the Biennial Plan. E. Jardine reported that there are plans to reconvene the state teams for a follow-up session to evaluate what has been learned, to determine if additional elements should be added and to examine how to compare the different activities.

### **Committee Chair Reports**

#### **Career Pathways System Task Force**

Chair Howes asked Brandon Melton to report on the Career Pathways System Task Force. B. Melton reported that an interim report was submitted to the legislature and that this report describes the trajectory of the task force work over the last 2 years. He provided an overview of the agenda items recently presented at the task force meeting including the Workforce Innovation Fund, workforce readiness credentials and presentations from Industry Partners.

#### **Employer Committee**

Chair Howes asked Martin Trueb to report on the Employer Committee. M. Trueb provided an overview of the work of the Employer Committee over the past several months and reported that the Employer Advisory Group would be meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>. He stated the group currently has 12 members but the goal is to have 10-12 more. He indicated the Employer Committee will ask for suggestions for additional members from the advisory group at the first meeting.

#### **Executive Committee**

Chair Howes reported that the Executive Committee met in December and discussed the current board membership. She indicated that the Governor will address current board vacancies, board terms that are expiring and affiliation changes. She reported that several names have been submitted to the Governor for his review. Chair Howes noted that the committee discussed the theme of the GWB annual meeting indicating the focus will be on the accomplishments of the past year and on the outstanding partnerships and collaborations. The annual meeting will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick.

#### **Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee**

Chair Howes asked William McGowan to report on the Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee. W. McGowan reported that the committee met in January and was provided with an update of the budget and obligations and expenditures of the FY13 initiatives. He reported that an update was provided for the Incumbent Worker Training Grants, Express Grants, Jobs Initiative and Innovative Partnership Grants.

#### **Presentation: Broadband RI Initiative**

Chair Howes introduced Stuart Freiman, Program Manager for Broadband RI (BBRI). S. Freiman presented information on the importance of Broadband and Digital Literacy in Jobs Skills Development for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rhode Islanders. He provided an overview of what Broadband is as well as the Broadband Grant fast facts. He explained the relevance of this initiative to Rhode Island and the rankings of broadband speed, coverage, adoption and e-government. He

discussed data on broadband factors correlated with Broadband adoption and how BBRI addresses digital literacy.

### **Consent Agenda – State Workforce Investment Board**

Chair Howes referred to the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) consent agenda and asked David Tremblay for a review of Workforce Investment Notice (WIN)11-22, change 1: Program Year 2012 WIA Local Plans. D. Tremblay noted this WIN has two purposes which are to inform local areas that the current plans will be automatically extended to March 31, 2013 and to inform local areas that the due date for submission of the Five Year Local Plans is February 28, 2013.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the SWIB consent agenda.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve the SWIB consent agenda. All approved. Consent agenda approved.

### **Adjournment**

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

**VOTE:** W. McGowan moved to approve. P. MacDonald seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney