



**South Coastal Workforce Investment Board
Board Meeting
8:30 AM – 11:00AM on February 12, 2009 at
The Lantana
43 Scanlon Drive
Randolph, MA 02368**

Members Present:

Kate Ayson
Harry J. Brett
David Cesario
Jeanette Crosby
Patricia Daly
Geraldine Dussault
Peter Forman

Denis Hanks
Martha Sue Harris
William Harris
Maralin Manning
Joseph Notini
Mamie O'Connor

James Pinkham
Harry Salerno
Keith P. Segalla
Doric Scarpelli
Nichole Thompson
Don Uvanitte

Members Absent:

Russell Aversa
Joan Circillo
Paul Hart
James Howard

Stephen Howard
Edwin Lofgren
Joseph MacRitchie

Rosemarie McGillicuddy
David Ryan
Charles Wall

Present by Proxy:

Martha Zeolla (Linda M. Lawrie-Pfeil)

WIB Staff Present:

Maryellen Brett
Margaret Gilligan
Alicia LeClaire

Deborah Lipton
Joyce Livramento-Young
Regina Zahran

Guests:

Arthur Brookfield
Joseph G. DiLorenzo

Peter Jones
Susan Lovelace

Unable to Attend:

Kevin Parham

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1. Don Uvanitte, Chairman: called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Welcomed all the Board members and asked everyone to introduce themselves as we have new members on the Board.

Don Uvanitte thanked everyone and then gave a few comments about the economy taking a downspin noting that everyone in the room has been affected by this. Since we last met the government has officially told us that we are in a recession. However, here on the South Shore we are doing fairly well: we have a pretty diverse economy with financial services, insurance, hospitality industry, health services, and construction. The good news is that we are doing pretty well here on the South Shore. The Chairman then asked. Peter Forman, Executive Director of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce if he wanted to talk about some of the economic development projects such as SouthFields in Weymouth, Weymouth Landing, the new down town initiative in Quincy Center.

Peter Forman: they are all on hold. The projects are moving forward. The biggest projects north of Plymouth are the Airbase project and down town Quincy, both of which are beginning to move forward. With the help of the Stimulus Bill all of the projects will be able to continue. All of these projects have a common need: they all involve housing, transit needs and adding people to the region. All of these will chance the economic status of the region.

Don Uvanitte, I think we are all aware with the downturn in the economy that the State is experiencing a surge in unemployment claims. I attended a MASS Workforce Investment meeting in Brockton were they informed us that claimants were being held on the phone for up to two hours, long lines at the centers were they were trying to file for unemployment. A comment was made by someone from the state that their IT systems were so antiquated – they are over 20 years old. The good news is that they are going to fix the problem. However, the problem with the problem is that it's going to take them over 18 months to fix the problem. Dealing with that is terrible -- the worse possible downturn in the economy in the state and to have the need for those services the most to be in the state that they are in is an even greater problem. The good news is that the Career Centers are continuing to flourish. We are doing well as a board. We are continuing to move toward the status of High Performing Workforce Investment Board, our present mantra was change but it is now going to be performance. We are going to stick to it and we are going reach our goals and maintain the level that the State has required of us. We intend to not only reach those goals but to exceed them. We have invested in our Board here. As many of you know we have moved

locations, we have expanded with the number of employees. Maryellen will talk about that in her report. We are maintaining and continue to grow and need all of you to become involved in the process now more than ever. Later on we will be talking about some changes that will be made to the By Laws, a change in meeting from a Quarterly basis to every other month. We are in the process of updating our website which had been under construction. We will now move on with our Agenda.

2. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2008 meeting: the motion was seconded and carried.
3. Don Uvanitte introduced the reading of the Treasurer report prepared by Harry Salerno and Arthur Brookfield. Harry spoke financial statement – this report is different that what you will see in the private sector. We are charged with spending on certain programs, so one of the key methods of tracking progress in performance is tracking the expenditures of the money. If your organization isn't doing its job, then it would not be spending the money on programs. Each program was reviewed in the report.
4. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer report: the motion was seconded and carried.
5. Mamie O'Connor gave a report on the Quincy Career Center: the career centers are extremely busy, we are seeing between 800-1,000 people for unemployment issues, all of our career center orientations programs are full week after week. We are seeing a lot of people. We are trying to get as many people as we can into re-training as we possibly can. Part of our problem is staffing and this is across the board a state-wide problem. We are not staffed up and didn't anticipate this economic meltdown. We are trying to add more staff. The latest information we have is that in the economic stimulus bill, there will be some money for training. We welcome you all to come over and visit the Career Center to see that it very busy. One of the things I'd like to mention, if you are in an industry where you anticipate there will be expansion in the next two years, please get in touch with us so that we can provide certain training for the workforce to fill those positions.

6. Alicia LeClaire provided an update of the Older Workers Department of Labor Grant (DOL); the new Film Industry Committee, Language and Learning Program, Workforce Training Fund, Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI) and The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund. One of the strategic priorities of the workforce system is to make sure that we are doing everything that we can to help close the skills gap. The people that Mamie was talking about, what kinds of things can we be doing to help them. There is a wide variety of things available to help these individuals such as the Individual Training Accounts at the Career Centers, the Labor Unions are now working to put together some pre-apprenticeship programs, adult education programs continue. However, there are some new initiatives here that I wanted to bring to your attention (that I think you should know about). One of these is a partnership with Operation A.B.L.E. and three other workforce boards to help older workers who are unemployed. The numbers are staggering, and I think Mamie will agree, that the vast majority of people who are unemployed are 45 years or older and it is going to be very difficult for them to get back into the workforce. We are applying for this Department of Labor grant in hopes that we will be able to be of assistance to this group. Operation A.B.L.E. has been very successful with _____. We are delighted that Denis Hanks and Kate Ayson have agreed to co-chair a committee that will help the adult and youth understand the kinds of opportunities that will be available in the film industry. We have three very large programs going on in the South Coastal region with the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund. One of them is with the Quincy Medical Center and two other hospitals who are benefiting from a Trust Fund grant to train much needed repertory therapists. It is very difficult to get people to get into this field and the program has begun and we have 3-4 individuals participating in it and they will be certified when they complete the program. The utility union has recently received a Workforce Training Fund Grant and Jim Pinkham is going to be working with some people in the area to help move this along. Again, training specifically in their industry. The Marine Trades Trust Fund grant is now in its second year of implementation. Other programs that have recently finished up are the Language and Learning Program for adult speakers, helping people that are employable but have a language barrier.

Language and Learning Program

The Language and Learning Program for adult speakers of other languages graduated their fourth class at the Quincy Career Center on January 30, 2009. This intensive 16 week session which is funded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides adults with language barriers a high level, work centered curriculum that includes extensive career/job search preparation in the Career Center. To date, forty nine adults have attended this class. With the exception of three that have returned to their home country all met their goals of obtaining their first job, improving their wage and job status or going on to college.

Workforce Training Fund

The Workforce Training Fund has provided a constant infusion of training dollars to the region for retraining and updating the skills of employed workers. In the last two years alone 1,832 individuals have participated in training that ranges from lean manufacturing, to customer service, to training registered nurses. Over \$1,653,733 from the fund has come back to the region in the past two years in the form of training dollars.

Recent budget cuts brought the fund down to \$9 million and eliminated the Hiring Incentive Training Grant (HITG) for training new hires. However, applications that were in the pipeline continue to be funded at a reduced rate. In March there will be one more application round and then it is expected that the fund will be fully restored in July 2009 for the coming fiscal year. We urge businesses in the region to consider this option for employee training. The WIB will be holding seminars in the Career Centers on a regular basis to introduce businesses to this grant opportunity. In addition the WIB in conjunction with the Applicant Assistance program will be offering one hour informational Webinars with technical assistance on applying for these grants. This will give companies the chance to understand the grant requirements by simply turning on their computer for a live interactive session with the specialists who support this grant.

Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI)

The ECCLI program which trains frontline workers in nursing and rehabilitation centers and home care companies has also suffered in the face of budget cuts. We currently have three programs that will be funded in this funding cycle. One grant is a planning grant for a home health care agency, another is a clinical skills program for an organization that deals with severely impaired adults in a daycare setting and the last is a career ladder program for a nursing home that will include advanced CNA training. We also have one extremely successful implementation that has received funding in three cycles and has trained close to 200 employees in two facilities. ECCLI funding has proved to be an effective program to upgrade the skills of workers who are caring for so many of our elderly and extremely disabled population.

The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund

Quincy Medical Center and two other hospitals are benefiting from a Trust Fund grant to train much needed repertory therapists. This is an intensive three year program that will help fill hospital positions that require specialized training and are jobs that are often hard to fill. The

future status of the Trust Fund is unclear at this time but it has been a source of high quality training in specific industry sectors.

The Marine Trades Trust Fund grant is now in its second year of implementation. Four 45 hour introductory classes have already been completed, two new advanced courses have been added and an internship program is now giving program participants hands on experience in the industry. There has been a recent increase in the number of laid off workers and returning veterans who are joining the close to 100 individuals who have taken the training courses.