



South Shore Workforce Investment Board
Board Meeting
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM on April 26, 2012
at
The Lantana
25 Technology Place
Hingham, MA 02043-4360

Members Present:

Joan Cirillo Kevin Madden Beth Ann Strollo
Patricia Daly David Manning Peter H. Tsaffaras
Paul Hart James Pinkham Don Uvanitte
James Howard Harry Salerno Dr. Charles Wall
Linda M. Lawrie-Braunstein Doric Scarpelli

Members Absent:

Harry J. Brett Alan Macdonald Dean Rizzo\*
Peter Forman\* Joseph MacRitchie Stephen Shay\*
Susan Fontana\* Rosemarie McGillicuddy\* Gail Simms\*
Greg Hanley Robert Miller\* Keelas Small\*
William Harris\* Jeanette Paul\*

WIB Staff Present:

Maryellen Brett Deborah Lipton Regina Zahran
Alicia LeClaire Joyce Livramento-Young

Guests:

Arthur Brookfield Barbora Hazuková Michael Quigley
Laurie Fadden Michael Jackman

\*Excused Absence

- I. Don Uvanitte, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. Acknowledged Linda Lawrie-Braunstein who will be retiring from MRC in July; 34 years of service. Welcome extended to guests: Barbora Hazuková and Michael Quigley, Training Resources of America, Inc., members of the Youth Council.
II. Quorum Attendance (not met).
III. Don Uvanitte, Chairman asked for comments, additions or corrections to the February 9, 2012 Board meeting minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made to accept the minutes. The Board approved the minutes and the motion carried.

IV: Harry Salerno provided the Treasurer's Report. WIA: The carry-in funds from FY11 have been fully disbursed. The Youth Contract for the Hull Lifesaving Museum (\$40,961) was terminated. Any leftover funds will carry into the next Fiscal Year. All South Shore Workforce Investment Board (SSWIB) grants are at acceptable levels. The \$25,000 Connecting Activities Grant is new: start date November. The Career Center Grant will not start until the fourth quarter (April). The YouthWorks Year-Round Grant is new: the participants started at the end of March. DCS: All grants are on target. The Skills Start Grant started October 1, 2011. The allocation for Wagner-Peyser increased by 90% / \$59,682 to purchase new computers in the resource rooms for both career centers and to cover increased IT costs. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report: the motion was accepted and motion carried.

V. Maryellen Brett, Executive Director: Executive Director's Update

- Gov Patrick is looking for youth to join the Youth Council team.
- The Annual Plan is the operational plan that is submitted to the state each year.
- The SSWIB receive guidance from the state about what they are looking for; this is to be distributed soon as will the WIA allocations for FY13. Allocations have been presented to the Secretary at Labor and Workforce Development although they have not been approved. The state continues to deal with cuts they had in the department that act as a WIA administrator for all the regions in the state of MA and possibly anticipates additional cutbacks in FY13. The significant cuts they absorbed last year fundamentally changes what they can and can't do. One result of those additional cuts is additional responsibility being pushed out; what was once handled by the state may now be pushed out to the WIBs.
- Sec. Goldstein 21<sup>st</sup> Century Visioning Project: Sec. Goldstein traveled the state over the past year asking for feedback on what is working and not working in the system; having people reflect about different ways of delivering local and state wide services to people. This information is to be gathered and incorporated into the Annual Plan.

Dave Manning: The Annual Plan will focus on Skills Gap, infrastructure, business services, etc. The notice with the guidance for the Annual Plan is expected to be sent in early May.

Federal Update: There were two WIA bills that were introduced: they both came out of the House of Representatives; (1) the Democratic version: was co-sponsored by Cong. John Tierney from MA (very familiar with workforce development programs and the WIA act); (2) the Republican version sponsored by Cong. Virginia Foxx. Fundamental differences between the two: Democratic version is a refinement of current law; taking what is working in the current act and eliminating what is not (bureaucracy, red tape and eligibility criteria). This is a methodical deliberate bill. The Republican version has good points but it is dramatically different: (1) Consolidates funding (less silos); more of a block style grant which would leave a lot of the of the decision making to the Governor. For example, the Governor could eliminate all workforce areas; could change it to two areas; could have one statewide; (2) the composition of WIB boards would change to 2/3 private sector and the number of public sector reps would be reduced. These are two fundamental differ bills; it will go before the House of Representatives for a vote before it goes to the Senate. The Senate developed a WIA bill on its own last year; they spent a lot of time and effort on it; however, they ran into irreconcilable differences. It is likely the Senate will wait to receive a WIA Bill from the House, then work from that.

State Update: WIB Innovative Grant application from the Department of Labor (DOL): participating in the grant: all 16 WIBs and Career Centers in the state; MA Workforce Board Association; MA Community Colleges and 12 companies have partnered for this grant. It presents an opportunity for strategic and operational changes in the career centers. There are central issues/problems that this grant will try to address: (1) long-term unemployed (one of the unique characteristics is that people are out of work for longer periods of time; how are we going to get these people back into the workforce system); (2) maximizing the use of employers for the system, a way to develop more meaningful partnerships with industry. These are two of the tracks identified as problems statewide and regionally that this grant would address. It is a very competitive

grant; there will only be several awarded. The people in MA feel that since we have a high-performance track record, there is reason to hope they will be awarded this grant. There is some acknowledgement and agreement among the partners that even if this doesn't get funded, the opportunity to make transformational changes should be explored anyway. This is designed to complement the MA Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCT) (\$20 million) also funded by the DOL to design programs/degrees/certificates to recognize credentials in a more coordinative way with a focus on key industry driving Massachusetts such as life sciences and bio tech, IT, healthcare, green energy, advanced manufacturing, financial services and entrepreneurship. Dr. Wall will speak a little about the Navigator position and how that is being implemented here in the south eastern region. Some of the proposed solutions include much better use of advanced technology customized to these groups: job seekers, career centers and WIBs (to have real-time labor market information) and to employers. As the delivery system itself is being looked at for expansion, in terms of how people can use the services remotely, possibly from a Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or a school, there would also be a POD model in the career centers, where you could pay for some career development staff who have job development expertise, job counseling or business service expertise and group them together and focus on an industry or sector so that all will have a deeper understanding of what employers need; what the occupational requirements are. This is not unprecedented; it has been done in Texas. Another unique feature of the grant is looking at Pathways to Employment, employers are reluctant to hire so this would be an expansion to on-the-job training or adult internship/apprentice programs. The overall placement goal (an oversimplification because there is a lot of different goals and outcomes to this grant application) is a placement rate of 75% of long-term unemployed.

Alicia LeClaire:

- ABE: Grants come in 5 year increments
- Seven organizations bid for \$1.3 m in grant funds to provide Adult Basic Education, GED and English for Speakers of other Languages

- The evaluation process was based on the need of communities served, quality of the application and past performance of the organizations.
- 62 data points were evaluated on each grant.
- Commissioner to review May 12, 2012; no specific time for announcement.
- Career Pathways is new to ABE.
- If a bidder was able to get an ABE Grant, they are also able to bid for a Career Pathways grant; there is \$144,000 for the South Shore region for the Career Pathways grants. These grants will help to be a fast-track GED program; as well as job readiness and getting people for the Acuplacer test.
- There will be significant changes to the GED test beginning in January 2014. The programs will have to adapt. Testing will take place at testing centers, there will be increased cost to administer the tests

Dr. Wall: Massasoit will provide the WIB with a write-up on TAACCT for distribution.

## VI. Sub Committee Updates

- Youth Council: Maryellen Brett (Steve Shay and Debbie Lipton: unable to attend the meeting)
  - Steve Shay, Blue Cross/Blue Shield has been appointed as Youth Chair
  - WIA Programs are on track: one in-school program (Hull Public Schools); four out-of-school (Plymouth Boys and Girls Program; Quincy Evening High School; TRA, Inc.; Wellspring)
  - Youth experiencing difficulty in finding jobs; lowest level since World War II.
  - Awaiting the announcement of summer YouthWorks funding.
  - DESE program 597 Grant: Randolph High School is the lead and has a partnership with Milton Hosp. is working well.
  - Connecting Activities: This is an in-school program; have \$100,000; able to expand into three additional high schools; hire additional staff.
  - Massasoit is bringing placement tests into the high school; MCAS is not an indicator of college success. Massasoit started with a pilot with the following

High Schools: Braintree, Bridgewater/Raynham; Middleborough; Grant written by Eastern Bank Foundation.

- Workforce Issues: Alicia LeClaire (Harry Brett unable to attend meeting)
  - Met on Tuesday, February 28, 2012; welcomes new members.
  - Bill Harris provided a report addressing the looming U.S. job challenges. Some of the topics addressed were lack of transferrable skills among the unemployed, lower ability to travel when jobs were offered; 23% decrease in new business creation.
  - Committee reviewed the Executive Summary of the Blueprint and discussed updating the issues on the Strategic Plan and the supply and demand side of the labor force in the region.
  - It was recommended to purchase a membership to Dun and Bradstreet / Hoover's database.
  - Committee to meet again in May/June.
- Career Center: Jim Howard
  - Thanked committee members for their participation.
  - Charter: Received it copy from the Mayor's office; some of the changes are good and the process is moving along; looking into obtaining legal advice about the charter.
  - Reviewing the San Diego Study; using online tools; reorganizing of Career Centers. Studying this to see if it can be of use to this area.
- Resource Management: it was announced that this Committee will be dissolved.

VII. David Manning, MA Department of Career Services: SSWIB Technical Assistance via State per US Dept. of Labor

- DCS has a focus on this area because of a resignation letter from a former board member and newspaper story.
- DCS is performing Bi-annual certification of WIBs, WIB memberships and functions.
- Through all the legislative changes we are seeing projected changes, all are going to result in stronger WIB support.

- George Moriarty, Director of DCS and Jen James, from the Executive office of Labor and Workforce Development met with Mayor Koch; making sure agreements are in place.
- Quincy is the lead in the area between the WIB and the Chief Elected Official.
- Charter needs to up-dated.
- Strategic Plan needed for the region.
- Governance issues need to be working correctly; the role of the CEO and the fiscal agent of the Career Center need to be working properly.
- DCS to be available to provide copies of agreements, make other areas available as a resource as needed.
- DCS is not micromanaging the operation.

#### VIII. One-Stop Career Center News

Kevin Madden, Executive Director, SCCDA

- Kevin Parham:
  - South Shore unemployment rate: 7.1% (Plymouth 8.7%/Quincy 6.7%).
  - 7 south shore cities have unemployment rate above 8%.
  - Career Centers are on target to meet Annual Plan numbers for the six major areas that are measured.
  - Job orders are at 89% of Annual Plan numbers.
  - Unemployment Claimants Served – 5,975, which is 103% of Annual Plan.
  - Veterans continue to visit centers; have served 82% of the Annual Plan; have served 742 Veterans; this number is increasing.
  - Placements: 1,034 job placements.
- Kevin Madden:
  - IT Update: the contracts have been signed and the computers are being purchased.
  - City of Quincy is assisting with procurement of servers and computers.
  - Currently on the State ‘detma.org’ network system but need to be removed from this; will be developing our own network as we transform off of the State system.

- Federal Unemployment benefits are extended to January, 2013; all participants must attend a career center seminar in order to continue to receive benefits.
- Letters to be sent to unemployment clients by May 19, 2012; as many as 5,000 letters to be mailed each week.
- Unemployment Insurance to go online by July, 2012.

X. Old Business

None

XI. New Business

None

XII. Meeting Adjournment at 10:15 am. Next meeting will be Thursday, June 28, 2012