

Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

April 14, 2010

In Attendance: Clarke King, Kathy Bass, Maureen Moriarty, Rob Michalik, Steve Cassano and Tom Mongellow

Staff: Tom Phillips, Sandy Rodriguez, Jim Boucher, and Suzanne Dutilly

State Update:

- **Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program Funding Update**

Tom Mongellow reported the funding for this program is an every changing process as we face an uphill budget battle. He said the House has moved money from the Banking Fund into the General Fund and although Rep. Ryan Barry of the Finance Committee and Senator Bob Duff of the Appropriations Committee support the program, he is not optimistic it will get funded. Tom Phillips added the program has been limping along since the end of December and both Capital Workforce Partners and the Bridgeport board are carrying the staff but there is no money for additional training. Kathy Bass from Senator Lieberman's office asked if she could still refer people to the program and Tom Phillips replied we can still provide counseling, but not training.

- **ARRA TANF Emergency Funds-State Application Update**

Tom Phillips reported Connecticut could receive \$133 million but it must be spent by September 30, 2010. The five boards have been working with CTDSS on the application that goes in next month. Jim Boucher, CWP's Director of Future Workforce Services reported if we receive the funding it would provide subsidized employment opportunities for 5,400 statewide. Capital Workforce Partners would provide subsidized employment for 1100 in-school youths, 278 out-of school youths and 240 adults. Tom Phillips added that all applications require worksites and it is a big challenge to find these sites by July 1. Steve Cassano asked why CTDSS wasn't doing the majority of the work on this application and Tom replied that early retirement at CTDSS took its toll and no one there knew how to do this application. He added the five workforce boards, working with CTDOL, did the majority of the work on this project. Steve Cassano said the workforce boards working with CTDSS and CTDOL will only help us in the long run by building bridges. He added, if we get the TANF Emergency Funds we may be able to get an extension on spending the money. Steve also said that he has heard that the majority of Connecticut's grant applications were incomplete when submitted. He said he state needs a statewide grant office instead of relying on departments where experienced people are retired.

Federal Update:

Tom Phillips noted that the \$600 million **Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act of 2010 (HR4889)** was passed by the House and is now in the Senate. **The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act of 2010 (HR4849)** includes \$2.5 billion in TANF funding. If passed by the Senate, it will give CWP the ability to provide on-the-job-training for a longer timeframe. Tom reported that he is hearing **WIA Reauthorization** will probably be pushed to the next Congress. CWP is submitting a **USDOL/ETA Community-Based Job Training Grant application** with Asnuntuck, Capital and Manchester Community Colleges, CCAT, CBIA and Beacon Technologies.

Other:

Tom noted that **U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis'** visit to Hartford on March 29 was a great success. She spoke at the 10th Anniversary Dinner for the Jobs Funnel Program. Tom added that 63 percent of the 2000 who have graduated from the Jobs Funnel program in the last 10 years are ex-offenders. **US DOL Assistant Secretary Jane Oates and US Department of Education Assistant Secretary Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier** may be visiting Hartford in the next few months. A **Manufacturing and Engineering Resource and Employment Expo** is scheduled for Monday, April 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Goodwin College in East Hartford.

The next meeting scheduled Wednesday, June 23 from 1:30-3 p.m. in the New Britain Room at Capital Workforce Partners.