

# Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## February 4, 2010

**In Attendance:** Cherie Griffith-Dunn, Maureen Moriarty , Rob Michalik, Steve Cassano and Pete Smith  
**Staff:** Tom Phillips, Sandy Rodriguez, Jim Boucher, Julie Geyer and Suzanne Dutilly

### State Update:

- Pete Smith reported that the Governor is trying to leverage dollars for job creation in her budget, but she has proposed to zero out the 3.5M for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) dollars again hoping it will be covered by federal dollars as it was last summer. He noted the Governor is proposing to open 500 Keno parlors throughout the state in order to raise revenue. Steve Cassano noted that the state has already been eliminated from phase one of the Race to the Top and if we do not make it to phase two Connecticut will have a big problem. Tom Phillips said that Connecticut is eligible for \$134 million in ARRA TANF Emergency funding that requires a 20% match and that these funds could be used to supplement this year's SYELP. Discussion then followed on the best way to get the message to the Governor and legislators on the TANF Emergency Funding and reinstating the state dollars for the SYEP and Steve Cassano emphasized that the message needs to be simple. Pete Smith added we need to point out we are not asking for additional funding only that the state SYEP funding not be cut since those dollars could be used to leverage the federal TANF Emergency Funding dollars.
- Tom Phillips also reported that the Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program is slated to end next Friday, February 12; however, Representative Ryan Barry and CWP Board Member Tom Mongellow are working to see if funding can be found to keep the program in operation. He said there are currently 400 people in training in our region and another 300 waiting for assistance.

### Federal Update:

- Tom Phillips noted that Capital Workforce Partners has spent down more than half of the ARRA funding we received and both John Rossi and Rob Michalik asked for information on how the money is being programmed, since there is criticism that the money is not being spent as it was intended. Sandy Rodriguez and Jim Boucher said they would provide testimonial information. Tom Phillips said that the U.S. Conference of Mayors is reporting that 312,000 youth were employed this past summer with ARRA funding and that Congress had targeted 100,000 would be served. He added that once the ARRA WIA formula funding for youths and adults is spent, the boards will not have the capacity to continue serving the surge of customers coming to the One Stops. . He also noted that the American Graduation Initiative in President Obama's budget did not include the WIBs as mandatory partners. Both Rob Michalik and John Rossi said they have heard nothing on WIA Reauthorization.
- John Rossi said he was told the announcement on the ARRA Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries grant recipients will be made by the end of February. John also added that USDOL Secretary Hilda Solis will be coming to Hartford Monday, March 29 and a dinner celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hartford Jobs Funnel program is planned.

### Other:

Next meeting scheduled Thursday, March 18 from 1:30-3 p.m. in the New Britain Room at Capital Workforce Partners.