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Workforce Investment Board Minutes September 25, 2008

Attendees: Linda Agnew, Bill Carroll, Steve Cassano, Rich Cohen, Bruce Douglas, Lee Erdmann, Silvana Flattery, Elliot Ginsberg, Lindy Lee Gold, Alan Green, Jason Howey, Clarke King, Mark Leahy, Rich Mullins, Susan Pierson, Bill Putt, Jonathan Richmond, Fernando Rosa, Brian Sardo, John Shemo, John Simoneau, Charles Smith, Carl Stephani, and Connie Wilson-Collins

Staff: Thomas Phillips, Alex Johnson, Vivian Rivera, Dennis Mink, Sandra Rodriguez and Suzanne Dutilly

Approval of July 22, 2008 WIB meeting minutes

Outcome/Action: A motion was made by Carl Stephani to approve the minutes with the following change: In the Outcome/Action for Finance & Audit Committee it should read, Following its Executive Session, the Board voted to approve the following. Rich Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting started with a presentation by Dennis Mink, CWP Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program Coordinator. Dennis narrated a brief presentation on the summer program and the number of youths served. He then introduced two of the four Dream Resume Award Winners. Edward Brown of New Britain plans to become a computer engineer, and Chelsea Davies of Bristol plans to become a psychologist or social worker.

Board Chair Rich Cohen introduced the following Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs:

Finance & Audit—Charles Smith
Future Workforce Services—Brian Sardo & James Stanley
Governance-Charles Smith & Jonathan Colman
Legislative Advisory-Steve Cassano & Clarke King
One-Stop Services-Bill Putt
Strategic Management-Lyle Wray

He also introduced two new board members:

Jason Howey, Vice President, OKAY Industries, Inc, New Britain
Lindy Lee Gold, Senior Development Specialist, CT Department of Economic and Community Development

Consent Agenda Items

Outcome/Action: A motion was made by Fernando Rosa to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

- FY 2008 Final Revenue Report
- FY 2009 Projected Revenue Report
- Preliminary Financial Reports
- Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program Overview
- Workforce Solutions Council of MetroHartford-National Fund for Workforce Solutions Award
- USDOL RIG Proposal
- Revised 2008-2009 Meeting Dates

The motion was seconded by Carl Stephani. Motion carried.

Board Retreat Follow-up

Tom Phillips introduced Bill Putt, Chair of the One-Stop Services Committee, who reviewed the June Retreat Summary noting there was discussion that CWP was trying to do too much and there was agreement that the focus going forward should be on Allied Health and Advanced Manufacturing. He said the directive from the retreat was to evaluate the One-Stops and come up with recommendations on how to improve them.

Bill said many of the people who come into the One-Stops don't have a high school education or have forgotten what they learned in high school. Since employers want people with good basic reading and writing skills, he suggested we should build that ramp at the One-Stops.

He also noted that most of the federal dollars we receive have a targeted use but these resources don't actually match the clients who come into the One-Stops, in other words, those who receive Core Services. He said the original WIA legislation advocated the self-help concept at the One-Stops, but our experience is that most clients don't have the basic computer skills to help themselves.

Bill then solicited thoughts and advice from Board members on how to improve the One-Stops and services we provide and replies from Board members included:

- Enhance and engage additional partners
- Maximize resources within core service offerings
- Define what we do in relation to training
- Consider partnering with local education programs, the Corrections Department, etc.
- Identify our responsibilities versus everyone else's
- Explore collaborative ways to get people more job-ready with a more detailed analysis
- Identify who are the most needy-i.e.-pre-release, ex-offenders, people/families losing their jobs and homes
- During assessment, case managers should be more knowledgeable of the services provided by partners
- Use a tracking system, such as a swipe card, to determine services used by Core Customers
- Working with other Human Services agencies, create mobile One-Stops
- How can we energize our industry clients more effectively?
- How can we attract interest in our services and energize the community?
- We need a better understanding of what services and programs are already being provided by other agencies
- Look at additional resources with existing training providers
- Leverage our business success stories

Board Member Linda Agnew, who is the Deputy Director of CTDOL, said the One-Stop Innovation proposal issued by her agency, OWC and CETC, is looking for innovative, systemic changes to the One-Stop system statewide. The deadline for proposals is September 30 and she said there would be quick turn-around in the award process because the money is coming from this fiscal year's budget.

Adjournment

Clarke King made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Cassano. Meeting adjourned.