

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 25, 1997

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Chairman Maureen Buck at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, February 25, 1997 at The Lobster House Restaurant, Norwood, New York

Members Present: Ron Bacon, Jack Backus, Lynn Blevins, Maureen Buck, Sue Caswell, Dick DeLaPorte, Dick Fishel, Jim McFaddin, Ron McDougall, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan

Members Absent: Dick Callan, Greg Davis, Steve Matzan, Doug McDonald, Linda Randi, Bob Snider, Gary VanKennen

Others Present: Ed Russell, Ray Fountain, Jim Connor, Steve House, John Manson, Connie Martin, Pat Rourk, Ed Short, Dave Williams of the Office of Economic Development and Tony LaGatta of the NYS Dept. of Labor

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. McFaddin, seconded by Mr. DeLaPorte, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 1996 meeting. Passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Buck introduced Mr. Backus, a new member of the Council from Mort Backus and Sons in Ogdensburg.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fountain indicated that PY '94 is closed out, but there are still reserves in Older Worker funding in PY '95. Staff is trying to put together some work experience programs for Older Workers in order to address the problem of expending Older Worker monies. One obstacle is that a lot of older workers work with the Office for the Aging and are closed to JTPA participation. Other than that, Mr. Fountain indicated that accounts are pretty much where they ought to be. Mr. Blevins moved, seconded by Mr. Phelan that the financial report be received. Passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

Speakers: Mr. Russell introduced Mr. House who briefly explained that at the end of the Job Readiness training process OED staff is offering those participants who are ready to enter employment an opportunity to meet and talk with actual employers. Mr. House wants to establish a list of private sector employers who would be willing to address job seekers. Volunteers would be asked to speak once or twice a year for 45 minutes to an hour on what employers look for in and expect from their employees. He asked any interested Council members to contact him.

Workforce Development/One-Stop Task Force: Mr. Russell reported that the New York State Commissioners of Labor and Education are creating work groups on five different topics. Mr.

Russell has been asked to serve on one of two work groups: Governance or Access.

NAPIC Conference: Mr. Russell advised the Council that he and Mr. Fountain would be attending the NAPIC Conference in Washington, D.C. in early March. He indicated that the proposed budget has some impact on employment and training programs. The entire budget will increase approximately 17%. Within that framework youth programs will increase 4.1% with most of the increase going into the Job Corps. Title IIC (year round youth program) will increase approximately 2.6% and Title IIB (Summer Youth) will stay at the top allocation for 7/1/96. Title IIA Adult Programs will increase 18.9%, Dislocated Worker Programs will increase 5% and Unemployment Insurance will increase 12.3%. He reported that the largest increase (128%) will go to a new three-year welfare program designed to move people from welfare to work.

Upcoming Meetings: Mr. Russell advised Council members that the Council would need to meet in April to discuss the Plan and in May to discuss the budget. He also indicated that the annual joint meeting with the Jefferson/Lewis County PIC would probably be held in June and would be hosted by Jefferson/Lewis this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Workforce Development Task Force:

Mr. Fountain presented Council members with a progress report on the activities of the Workforce Development Task Force. NYATEP has advised that the State plans to have 20 active One Stop areas in the State shortly after July 1, 1997. Broome County was chosen as a pilot site approximately 8 months ago. Additional sites will be awarded grants at two levels: implementation grants to four sites determined to be farthest along in the process; and demonstration grants to 15 sites. Initially the St. Lawrence Workforce Development Task Force wanted to be named an implementation site, but the Task Force now feels that as long as St. Lawrence County is designated as one of the 20 sites, the type of designation does not matter. There are, in fact, some benefits to being a demonstration site - looser regulations and less control on funding. Mr. Fountain advised that the State's progress on putting out the RFP is slow.

Mr. Fountain then reviewed the accomplishments of the Task Force. In order to bring the Task Force into compliance with the State Plan, three new members were named to the Task Force (SDA Director, Ed Russell; NYSDOL Regional Director, Wanda Kucera; and JSEC Chair, Nicole Scott. The 101 Main Street location has been officially designated as the St. Lawrence County One-Stop Career Center by the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators and the St. Lawrence County Private Industry Council. A Task Force Agreement has been drawn up and signed by all but two members. The Agreement will then be signed by the Chair of the Board of Legislators once it is determined whether her signature requires Board approval.

Mr. Fountain reported that the Task Force is currently dealing with issues surrounding the transition to a Workforce Development Board. The Task Force is cognizant that the makeup of the Workforce Development Board must be 51% private sector and similar in size to the Private Industry Council (17-19 members). Some of the other membership issues still to be negotiated include: County residency; dual representation; optional representatives, etc.

Mr. Russell and Mr. Fountain then reviewed NYATEP's suggested strategies for Local One Stop Systems with particular emphasis on Strategy #4 "Rating Your Local Readiness for a One Stop System." A general discussion followed. Mr. Blevins suggested that St. Lawrence County put a Workforce Development Board in place before the State's deadline. He felt that the PIC could be helpful in establishing a Workforce Development Board and that, in fact, many of the current PIC

members would serve on the Workforce Development Board. Mr. Russell pointed out that these are confusing times because while the State is moving toward a Workforce Development System, funding and performance standards are still governed by the old system. He indicated that it is possible that the PIC/Workforce Development Board could function as a dual board.

NEW BUSINESS

Modifying Program Budgets for the St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment and Training Unit:

Following Mr. Russell's explanation that the resolution transferred monies left in the 1996 Summer Youth Program to the Title IIC year-round Youth Program, Mr. Phelan moved, seconded by Mr. Blevins, attached resolution #97-02-01, modifying the budgets for the St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment and Training Unit. Passed unanimously.

Modifying Program Year '96 Budget to Include Title IIB Summer Youth Employment and Training Funds:

Mr. McFaddin moved, seconded by Ms. Novak, attached resolution #97-02-02, modifying the Program Year '96 Budget to Include Title IIB Summer Youth Employment and Training Funds. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. McFaddin the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Constance F. Martin,
Recording Secretary