

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 9, 1997

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by acting Chairman, Ron McDougall at 6:55 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, 1997 at The Lobster House Restaurant, Norwood, New York

Members Present: Jack Backus, Lynn Blevins, Dick Callan, Sue Caswell, Dick DeLaPorte, Dick Fishel, Doug McDonald, Ron McDougall, Jim Mcfaddin, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan

Members Absent: Maureen Buck, Greg Davis, Steve Matzan, 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, Walt Paul of BOCES and Tony LaGatta of NYSDOL

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. McFaddin, seconded by Mr. Phelan, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 1997 meeting. Passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Phelan moved, seconded by Ms. Caswell that the financial report be received. Passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

Workforce Development Task Force: Mr. Fountain reported that the Task Force had met just before the Council meeting. He advised that the differences between a Workforce Development Board and a Private Industry Council had been the major topic of discussion. Mr. Fishel, Mr. Paul and Mr. Fountain will work together to come up with the numbers it will take to bring the PIC into compliance so that it can become a Workforce Development Board. Mr. Fountain reviewed the first quarter Report Card and indicated that in the next quarter staff will be measuring the activities of the One-Stop through use of a customer assessment feedback survey. He advised the Council that the employer marketing piece had been put together by Mr. Paul and his staff as an effort to market the One-Stop to employers. He directed attention to the letterhead samples and the new One-Stop logo.

Summer Youth Program: Mr. Connor reported that job slot request forms have been sent to 179 Agencies, with 93 responses received to date for 329 job slots. He indicated that 1,500 applications for young people ages 14 to 21 have been distributed to strategic County areas. The deadline for submission of applications is May 16th. This year's program expects to enroll 350. On April 7th Fred Cook returned for his 8th year as Manager of the Program. Four Tutors and a Keyboard Specialist will start on April 14th. The Program will also be staffed by 6 Remedial Education Instructors from BOCES and 5 Conservation Corps Crew Supervisors. The work

program will run for 7 weeks from July 7th through August 22nd and participants will be paid minimum wage (\$4.75/hr) for 30 hours per week. The first three days of the program will be devoted to Pre-employment Skills Training for all participants which will be held in 6 locations around the County. Remediation will be ongoing for those young people who need it.

Classroom Training: Mr. Williams briefly reviewed the Classroom Training Report indicating that 79% of those receiving full-time classroom training moved into employment situations when they completed training. When the 13-week follow-up was conducted, 50 of the total of 54 employed (73%) were still working. Mr. Williams credited Mr. Phelan and his staff for screening applicants and providing the proper support to maintain good outcomes.

NYS Workforce Development System Design Teams: Mr. Russell reported that he had been appointed to serve on one of the five Design Teams - Access to the Workforce Development System. (The other teams are: Common Database/Definitions; Workforce Development Programming/Skill Standards; Accountability System; Structure and Governance.) The five teams are meeting once a month and in June the five teams will meet jointly with the Governor present. At the first meeting of the Access Committee, which Mr. Russell had to miss, only representatives of public agencies were present. Since the discussion centered on dysfunction of the job training system, two members of the private sector were added to the Committee: one from Borg-Warner and One from UPS. At the second meeting the discussion on job training system dysfunction continued. Much of the discussion centered on meeting the need for service to the individual client groups served by the public agencies. The point was made that private sector business must be a customer of the system and that if private sector businesses did not use the system, the new system would be as dysfunctional as the old one. The group then began to discuss how to meet the need of businesses. Mr. Russell advised that an ambitious schedule had been set for the Design Teams as the task must be completed by the end of August.

Hannover Fair: Mr. Russell then talked briefly about his upcoming trip to Germany as a member of the NYS delegation attending the Hannover Fair, which is the largest industrial fair in the world. He believes that the two main objectives of the NYS delegation are: to monitor interest in NYS as an expansion site for foreign businesses; and to develop market opportunities for businesses in New York State.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest: Mr. Russell congratulated Mr. Rourk on his appointment as Director of the County's Department of Veterans Services. He announced that, as a result of a promotion with Marine Midland Bank and his subsequent move to Binghamton, Mr. Bacon had resigned as a member of the Council. Mr. Russell also advised the Council that it was the Jefferson-Lewis County PIC's turn to host the annual joint meeting. Full details will soon be available, but the meeting will be held in Alexandria Bay the first or second week in June.

OLD BUSINESS

Modifying Employment and Training Program Budgets:

Mr. Fountain explained that the resolution brings PY '94 accounts into line. Mr. McFaddin then moved, seconded by Mr. Phelan, attached Resolution #97-04-03, modifying program budgets for the St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment and Training Unit. Passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Approving Plan for PY '97:

Mr. Russell advised the Council that the PY '94 Plan had been about 3 times the size of this Plan, but that much of it was "boiler plate." The new Plan format includes affirmations and/or assurances that procedures, policies, etc. are in place plus the following sections: (1) Plan Performance Standards, the number of people the SDA plans to serve, target groups, eligibility standards, non-cash PA recipients, services to be provided, types of programs, cost of programs, competency levels; (2) Performance Goals, regression; (3) Budget; (4) Compliance with Governor's Plan. Three Appendices are also included: (1) 8% Plan; (2) Report on Summer Youth Program for 1996; and (3) The NYSDOL Job Service Plan.

Mr. Fishel indicated that the NYSDOL Job Service Plan included priorities for the coming year and the plan for cooperation between JTPA and DOL programs.

There was some discussion about the Workfare Program and the problems it faces. Mr. Phelan emphatically stated that in St. Lawrence County Workfare Participants will not replace existing employees. He also indicated that he does not believe that the influx of Public Assistance recipients into the workplace will drive wages down, partly because wages in St. Lawrence County are low.

Mr. Fishel suggested that The Workforce Development Task Force Agreement be included as part of the Plan. He also pointed out that page 1-5 of the Plan indicates that many activities will be done by other Agencies through the Workforce Development System's One-Stop. He stated that two checkmarks need to be added to the last column (provided through agreement with other agencies) on page 1-5.

Mr. McDonald then moved, seconded by Mr. DeLaPorte, attached Resolution #97-04-04 approving the Plan for PY '97, provided the recommended changes are made. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. McFaddin the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____Constance F. Martin,
Recording Secretary