

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Vice Chairman Steve Matzan at 6:55 PM, Wednesday, September 24, 1997 at The Lobster House Restaurant, Norwood, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Doug Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Dick Callan, Sue Caswell, Dick DeLaPorte, Dick Fishel, Steve Matzan, Doug McDonald, Ron McDougall, Jim McFaddin, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan, Linda Randi

Members Absent: Maureen Buck, Greg Davis, Nicole Scott, Bob Snider

Others Present: Edmund Russell, Raymond Fountain, Jim Connor, Steve House, John Manson, Connie Martin and Dave Williams of the Office of Economic Development; Tony LaGatta of NYSDOL.

Mr. Matzan introduced new member Doug Beachard of Zinc Corporation of America and reported that Nicole Scott of Management Recruiters of St. Lawrence County, in Madrid, had also been appointed to the Council, but was unable to attend the meeting. He then asked all others present to introduce themselves. Mr. Matzan announced that the next Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and that election of officers would take place at that time. He asked Mr. DeLaPorte, Mr. McFaddin and Ms. Novak to serve as a Nominating Committee.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. McFaddin, seconded by Mr. Phelan, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 1997 meeting. Passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fountain indicated that the financial report reflects the fact that we are in the early months of the new Fiscal Year. He reported that, due to Welfare Reform, the Council would be facing some issues in the future regarding the level of service for welfare recipients.

Mr. McDonald moved, seconded by Mr. Blevins that the financial report be received. Passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

Orientation: Mr. Russell reported that he would set up an orientation session for new PIC members within the next few weeks. Any interested members of the Council and of the Board of Legislators would be welcome to attend.

Workforce Development System: Mr. Russell reported that the House has approved a consolidation bill for Workforce Development which impacts only JTPA programs. The Senate companion legislation (which is not out of Committee yet) puts vocational education, adult education and employment and training programs into a block grant. The House bill designates SDAs as regions of 200,000 or more; the Senate 500,000 or more. The House requires that the Workforce Development Board/Private Industry Council enter into a partnership agreement with

local government for delivery of services. The Senate allows local government only to review and comment on plans for delivery of service.

Mr. Russell reported that the State is committed to a Workforce Development System and established five Workforce Development System Task Forces. Four of the Task Forces have come to agreement and reported out. The Governance Committee has been unable to come to agreement.

New Welfare Legislation: Mr. Russell reported that the House and Senate have agreed to welfare legislation which proposes \$3 billion (\$1.5 billion this year and \$1.5 billion next year - each allocation with a 3-year term) to serve individuals who are long-term welfare recipients (30 months or more), or those who are in danger of exceeding their benefits because of time. Eligible individuals must also (1) have a high school diploma or GED but perform below grade; (2) be alcohol or drug abusers or in need of other assistance; (3) have no work history...the hardest to serve. The funds will be turned over to the Department of Labor rather than the Department of Health and Human Services and will be administered through Private Industry Councils. There will be performance standards, which have not yet been established. It will be a costly, labor-intensive program. Considerable discussion ensued about possible pitfalls of the program and challenges staff will face.

Reports: Mr. Fountain reviewed the two monitoring reports which had been sent out to the Council members. Mr. Russell distributed a summary sheet which, inadvertently, had been left out of the mailing and then briefly reviewed the remediation portion of the Summer Youth Program report.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Modifying PY '95 & '96 Budgets:

Mr. Fountain advised that most of the modifications were minor adjustments to bring the planned budget into line with actual expenditures. He pointed out that the Title IIA budget for day care increased by \$18,000 in 1995 and by \$26,000 in 1996 because more people who have day care expenses are coming into the program. Mr. Phelan indicated that St. Lawrence County expends \$1 million annually for day care and that the better part of that money goes to the working poor - those not on assistance. Mr. Russell agreed to put some figures together in response to a question from Ms. Novak.

Mr. McFaddin then moved, seconded by Mr. McDonald, the resolution modifying PY '95 and '96 budgets. Passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Establishing Workforce Development Board:

Mr. Fountain explained that the resolution is an endorsement of the resolution passed by the Workforce Development Task Force at its meeting earlier in the evening. The resolution puts the Task Force out of business and replaces it with an expanded Board of 23 people with slightly different representation than the PIC. The new Board would meet the requirements of both a PIC and a Workforce Development Board (WDB). Mr. Fountain briefly reviewed the accomplishments of the Workforce Development Task Force: One Stop Career Center; Common Definitions for programs in One-Stop; Common Application Form; and Report Card.

Mr. Fountain indicated that the expanded board will have to establish new By-Laws and a new Agreement with the Board of Legislators, and to review the Articles of Incorporation for possible changes. Mr. Fountain has discussed the Articles with the County Attorney, who does not think much change will be necessary. Some modifications will be necessary in the agenda for administrative items: By-laws and nominations to the PIC. Also some consideration will have to be given to how issues of all the One-Stop partners will be brought to the table. Mr. Fountain advised that St. Lawrence County will be making application for a portion of the State's \$7 million in One-stop funds. There has been a long delay and the last word is that applications will be accepted in November or December. Mr. Russell feels that the State will wait for the reports from its five Workforce Development Task Forces.

Mr. Blevins then moved, seconded by Ms. Caswell, the resolution approving establishment of a Workforce Development Board. Ms. Novak asked how much more work this will mean for Board members. Mr. Blevins indicated that initially the meetings would probably take a half hour or so longer in order to deal with separate issues for PIC and WDB, but that once the Board is merged into one, over the next few years, there will simply be a quantum change in the kinds of issues the Board will address. In response to another question from Ms. Novak, Mr. Russell indicated that it was possible that the new Board would require sub-committee work. The Question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Modifying Relocation Policy:

Mr. Fountain explained that the present relocation policy stipulated that assistance for relocation could only be offered to County residents relocating at least 35 miles from the Service Delivery Area (SDA). The recent Appleton paper lay-offs pointed up the need to modify that policy. Appleton is located in a remote area of the County, and staff found themselves unable to assist former Appleton employees relocating to Massena. Mr. House further explained that the previous policy allowed a maximum \$600 one-time use of relocation funds. The New policy allows multiple use with a higher maximum at the discretion of staff.

Mr. McDonald then moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall, the resolution modifying the relocation policy. Passed unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Caswell, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Constance F. Martin,  
Recording Secretary