

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL MINUTES  
February 25, 1998

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:15 PM, Wednesday, February 25, 1998 at The Best Western University Inn, Canton, New York.

Members Present: Doug Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Greg Davis, Dick DeLaPorte, Dick Fishel, Doug McDonald, Ron McDougall, Jim McFaddin, Linda Randi

Members Absent: Jack Backus, Maureen Buck, Dick Callan, Steve Matzan, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan, Nicole Scott, Bob Snider

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. McDougall moved, seconded by Mr. McFaddin, that the minutes of the January 29, 1998 meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blevins advised the Council that Ms. Caswell and Mr. McFaddin had agreed to serve on a committee to work with Mr. Fountain and Mr. Short to review and revise the financial reports. He indicated that the Committee could use a third Council member and asked for a volunteer by the end of the meeting. Mr. Fountain reviewed the financial reports indicating that PY '97 began July 1, 1997 and that expenditures are still running a little behind. Mr. Beachard then moved, seconded by Mr. McFaddin that the financial report be received. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CREW Program:

Mr. Fishel expressed concern about the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of the letter sent to Mr. Dillon, Commissioner of the NYSDOL, by Mr. Blevins. He indicated that he did not recall the Council asking Mr. Blevins to write the letter, and that he was concerned because he was not in the habit of criticizing his Commissioner. Mr. Blevins indicated that the letter was written at his request and that he regretted any misunderstanding. Mr. Fountain reported that he had been in Albany the Monday before the last Council meeting and had talked with Mr. Dillon. He advised Mr. Dillon that the Council was disappointed in the wording of the CREW project proposal. Mr. Dillon advised Mr. Fountain that once the program was developed and sent to the Governor, the NYSDOL had no control over how it was sent out to the Counties.

Mr. McFaddin complimented Ray and his staff on the success of the CREW Program in St. Lawrence County. In response to his question, Mr. Fountain and Mr. Fishel agreed that there was no doubt that the various agencies' experience with the One-Stop Career Center fostered the spirit of cooperation which allowed St. Lawrence County to put together a successful program in a very short period of time.

Mr. House reviewed the report on CREW Program activity. He indicated that staff had initially anticipated that the crews would rotate between agencies more than they have, but they do expect that there will be more movement of crews once the weather warms up and the snow and ice melt. He indicated that the numbers on the report change daily. Each individual is limited to 6 months or \$12,000 in earnings. Mr. Fishel indicated that there are a number of requests for crews on April 1<sup>st</sup> and that staff hopes to have crews available. If not, we may need to hire more people and set up more crews. Mr. Fishel also reported that he had looked into the Unemployment Insurance issue and found that the exclusion in the law is for emergency situations. Clean-up is not considered an emergency, so CREW workers are covered. In response to questions from Council members, Mr. Fishel indicated that there had been very few injuries to CREW workers - a hernia being the most serious to date and Mr. House indicated that show-up rates were very good and that transportation was not yet a problem. He advised that it is possible that transportation may become a problem once the crews start to move around more.

#### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins welcomed Mr. DeLaPorte back after his illness.

On the issue of By-laws review, Mr. Blevins reported that the Committee had its initial meeting just prior to the PIC meeting. He indicated that the Committee had agreed to meet just prior to the next few PIC meetings and that the notes of the By-laws Committee meetings would be made available to all PIC members. He stated that any interested PIC members were welcome to sit in on the meetings.

Mr. Blevins advised the Council that Mr. Beachard had volunteered to serve on the Financial Report Review Committee. He then appointed Ms. Caswell, Mr. McFaddin and Mr. Beachard to work with Mr. Fountain and Mr. Short on the financial reports.

#### STAFF REPORT

Single Audit Finding: Mr. Russell advised the Council that JTPA programs are audited as part of the County Single Unite Audit. In 1996 the auditor questioned \$2,800 in costs because a single file was missing a document - not a JTPA required document, but an in-house check list. Mr. Russell indicated that if the Office of Economic Development had been given a chance to comment on the findings, we could have advised the auditor and eliminated the finding. Mr. Russell has talked at length with Mr. Tenenini.

Monitoring Reports: Mr. Russell briefly reviewed Mr. LaGatta's monitoring report on the OJT program. Mr. Williams then reviewed the Employer Satisfaction Survey on the OJT program. He indicated that the responses had been very good. The percent of participants who remain employed is good, but also of note is the fact that the wage after training is a little over \$1.00 higher.

Welfare-to-Work Competitive Grant: Mr. Russell reported that the grant application was forwarded to the State Department of Labor on Monday, February 23rd. Counties cannot apply if less than

7.5% of the population is below poverty level. St. Lawrence County qualifies with 17.5%. Per the summary, the application requests \$1,962,862 of grant funds targeted for long term (30 months or more) TANF recipients with special interest in non-custodial parents and public housing residents. The application indicates the service level at 335+ identified and referred, 200+ assessed and planned for and 150 put into unsubsidized employment. Our goal is to put people into jobs and provide them with post employment support. Mr. Russell, responding to Mr. Beachard's question indicated that the program is labor intensive and will require the additional staff set forth in the Plan.. Mr. Russell indicated that formula monies will also be available once the State provides the formula.

State One-Stop Application: Mr. Fountain reported that the State One-Stop Applications were being held up for the Design Team reports. When he was in Albany in February Mr. Fountain was advised that the Design Team reports would be out the third week in February and the applications immediately afterward. However, he received a call this week advising him that the Design Team reports would not be out for approximately three weeks.

### ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. McFaddin, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sue E. Caswell,  
Secretary