

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:38 PM, Wednesday, September 30, 1998 at the Lobster House Restaurant, Norwood, NY.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Douglas Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Maureen Buck, Richard Callan, Sue Caswell, Richard DeLaPorte, Ron McDougall, Jim McFaddin, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan, Linda Randi

Members Absent: Greg Davis, Nicole Scott, Robert Snider

Others Present: Edmund Russell, Raymond Fountain, John Manson, Connie Martin, Edwin Short, and David Williams of the Office of Economic Development; Tony LaGatta, Wanda Kucera and John Deal of NYSDOL, and Walter Paul and Faye Bartley of BOCES.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. McFaddin moved, seconded by Mr. Phelan that the minutes of the May 27, 1998 and August 26, 1998 meetings be approved. Passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fountain reported that the office is exceeding performance standards in every area and should be in good shape for incentive money.

Mr. Fountain then distributed a draft of a new financial report and reviewed same. He indicated that the first page would replace the four pages attached to it, and that information contained in the former participant report attached at the back of the packet would be included in the section at the bottom of the first page. There was some discussion about the objective assessment process and at what point participants are counted toward performance standards. Mr. Fountain indicated that the abbreviated report would be distributed on a regular basis and that a longer, more comprehensive report would be provided to the Council a few times each year.

Mr. Fountain also advised the Council that the Office had been notified by telephone that it had received an \$80,000 One-Stop Demonstration Grant from the State. He indicated that the funds were slated for upgrading the telephone system, purchasing new computer equipment, training staff and establishing employer focus groups.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Establishing Worker Adjustment Discretionary Budget:

Mr. Russell gave a brief explanation of the proposed budget. In response to a question from Ms. Caswell, there was some discussion about rental rates. Mr. McFaddin then moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall attached Resolution #98-09-09. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins advised the Council that the annual NAPIC Conference would be held February 28, and March 1 & 2, 1999 in Washington, D.C. He proposed that at least four members (the three officers plus one) of the Council attend the Conference in order to get the greatest benefit from the workshops offered. Ms. Buck supported the proposal. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that four Council members should attend the conference.

Mr. Blevins advised Council members that the joint meeting with the Jefferson-Lewis PIC was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 1998 at the Gran-View in Ogdensburg. He reported that the speaker for the meeting would be Greg Newton, who would conduct a seminar on the new Workforce Development legislation and its meaning for Private Industry Councils from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with dinner following. Mr. Russell advised that Mr. Newton is an excellent speaker, always interesting and always current with information and he urged Council members to make arrangements to attend if at all possible.

Mr. Blevins indicated that there would be one meeting (date yet to be determined) of the Council to cover November and December to free the Council members of additional responsibility during the busy holidays.

Mr. Blevins distributed a copy of a news release regarding the Office of Economic Development's high job training performance. He advised that articles should appear in the local newspapers the next day.

Mr. Blevins appointed Mr. DeLaPorte to chair a Nominating Committee to select a slate of officers for 1999. Mr. McFaddin and Ms. Buck agreed to serve as Committee members. The Committee will report at the October 20th meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Summer Youth Program: Mr. Russell briefly reviewed the Summer Youth Program report: Page one summarizes the demographic characteristics of this year's participants; Page two lists the types of jobs they performed; and Page three provides a nine-year comparison of Summer Youth Program statistics. He indicated that under the new Workforce Development Act the Summer Youth Program is not a separate budget, but is included in the Title IIC Youth funds and that individual Service Delivery Areas Act will have to decide whether or not to run a Summer Youth Program.

Summer Youth – Educational Enhancement Program: Mr. Russell called the Council's attention to the last two pages of the report. He advised that as was the normal practice, all participants were tested at the beginning of the program. This year, however, for the first time, all participants were also tested at the end of the program. The results indicate that students involved in the educational enhancement improved their reading and math grades, while those who were not fell back a little. He also noted that the increase in grade levels was significantly lower than in the past. He advised that the reason for this is that this year, for the first time, there were approximately 30 participants who performed at a very low level (3rd and 4th grade level) in reading and math. These young people were included because the schools made an extra effort to get them involved.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

NYS Department of Labor (DOL): Mr. Blevins introduced Ms. Wanda Kucera and Mr. John Deal of the NYSDOL. Ms. Kucera addressed the Council about the changes taking place in the DOL and the resulting downsizing of staff. She explained that the Unemployment Insurance Division is being fully automated. Customers no longer go into an office for weekly reporting. Instead they report by telephone to call centers located in Endicott, Troy and New York City. The duration of Unemployment Insurance benefits in New York State is currently 17 to 18 weeks – the highest in the nation. It is the goal of the DOL to lower the duration. Staff is currently working with customers to get them back to work as soon as possible. As a first step to accomplishing this goal, she indicated that the DOL staff will be working with their partners at the One-Stops to make sure that everyone who wants a job is entered into the data base. In St. Lawrence County she indicated that DOL staff and their One-Stop partners will continue to grow the presence in Canton. The DOL also hopes to continue a presence in Ogdensburg, but she indicated that it will be up to the residents of the County to determine where the presence is needed. She stated that the DOL is working in a “cluster management” model and that Mr. Deal was selected for his position because of his extensive management skill. Ms. Kucera recommended that Mr. Deal be appointed NYSDOL representative to the Council, but she indicated that the final decision was up to the locality. She ended her remarks by complimenting the Council on the County’s One-Stop Grant, indicating that it was awarded to St. Lawrence County because of the good work that has already been done here. Mr. Fountain stated that seven different agencies had participated in the Grant Application so it was a joint effort of the One-Stop partners. Mr. Russell expressed concern, which he felt the Council shared, about Mr. Deal’s ability to attend Council meetings because of the amount of travel necessary. Mr. Deal pledged to do his very best to work with the St. Lawrence County One-Stop partners. Mr. Blevins welcomed Mr. Deal to the Council.

BOCES: Mr. Blevins introduced Walt Paul and Faye Bartley of BOCES. Mr. Paul briefly outlined the history of the BOCES presence at the One-Stop, indicating that present BOCES One-Stop staff members are Jerry Bourdage, Sharon Tupper and Faye Bartley. Ms. Bartley distributed a pamphlet listing the BOCES course offerings at the One-Stop. She indicated that over the last few years the One-Stop partners had been working together to be more accommodating to clients. Those efforts have resulted in a uniform application form, which has greatly improved the assessment process. Some other benefits of the partnership are: an improved flow of information between agencies; easier access by One-Stop clients to BOCES classes; better assistance for clients with transportation needs; and a method for reporting class attendance back to the referring agency. A brief discussion period followed which centered on statistics on educational levels in the County and the need for GED instruction.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Phelan the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue E. Caswell,
Secretary