

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 1999 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 27, 1999 at the Gran View Restaurant, Ogdensburg, NY.

Members Present: Douglas Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Greg Davis, John Deal, Richard DeLaPorte, Donald Doig, Joseph Kennedy, Robert LaClair, Ron McDougall, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan

Members Absent: Jack Backus, Genevieve Baxter, Maureen Buck, Richard Callan, Donald Hooper, Jim McFaddin, Linda Randi, Nicole Scott, Robert Snider

Others Present: Edmund Russell, Raymond Fountain, Natalie Haggart, Edwin Short and David Williams of the Office of Economic Development; Tony LaGatta, NYSDOL

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Phelan moved, seconded by Mr. Davis that the minutes of the December 2, 1998 meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins advised the Council that Mr. McDougall will be unable to attend the annual NAPIC Conference to be held February 28, and March 1 & 2, 1999 in Washington, DC, and that Mr. Backus has expressed interest in attending the conference.

Mr. Blevins then spoke with members briefly outlining the goals and plans of the Private Industry Council. He invited discussion and recommended setting aside a portion of each meeting to further evaluate the changing role of the organization as it transitions from a Private Industry Council into a Workforce Investment Board. Mr. Russell added that Mr. Blevins suggested setting aside approximately 15-20 minutes at each meeting for the purpose of the overview.

Finally, Mr. Blevins briefly discussed the Department of Labor's "White Paper," and expressed concern about the tone of the document, which appeared to lecture local governing bodies about how the Workforce Development System will be organized, rather than seeking local advice and promoting partnerships between the State and local officials.

OLD BUSINESS

Establishing a One-Stop Career Center Demonstration Grant Budget:

Mr. Russell advised the Council that there are presently two separate phone systems at the One-Stop, and part of the money from the grant will be used to install a single phone system. After a brief discussion on various items within the budget, Mr. Beachard moved, seconded by Ms. Caswell, that

the resolution establishing a One-Stop Career Center Demonstration Grant budget be approved. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Modifying Program Year 98 Budget to Include Title IIB Summer Youth Employment and Training Funds:

Mr. Russell reviewed the Summer Youth Program, stating the program targets disadvantaged youth in St. Lawrence County. He also noted the program is a learning situation for youth. Those who are found to have reading and computational skills below their grade level also receive instructional support throughout the program, and most youth who receive the instructional support show an improvement in their math and computational skills by at least one grade level. Mr. Phelan remarked that planning would have to be done to transition the present JTPA programs, especially the youth program, to programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Mr. Russell agreed and suggested that staff would develop a scope of issues to be dealt with and make recommendations to the Council. Mr. Russell stated he would mail a timeline to Council members, and suggested discussing the new issues during the orientation section of the next meeting.

Mr. Phelan moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall that the resolution modifying PY 98 budget to include Title IIB Summer Youth Employment and Training Funds be approved. Passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fountain explained to the Council that the new format of the report is a result of the Fiscal Committee's recommendations. He noted the report is about 1/3 of the length of the original reports, and hopefully, it is simpler to understand. He also noted that this report does not give a detailed explanation, but the Fiscal Committee recommended providing the Council with a detailed financial report once per year.

STAFF REPORTS

Program Year "97" On-the-Job Training Survey Results: Mr. Russell introduced Mr. Williams to the Council, who presented a report on the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Survey recently conducted by the Office of Economic Development. Mr. Williams explained the OJT process, noting there are three steps to a successful OJT contract – hiring, training, and retaining that employee. He then explained the follow-up procedure, noting that if the employee is still employed after 13 weeks, that person can be considered (for reporting purposes) an "entry to employment." This survey, however, goes beyond the 13-week timeframe. Some employers were surveyed even after six months. Follow-up continued for those employees who were no longer with the original OJT firm. Some were employed with another employer, and the remaining number were either active in current programs, had returned to full-time school, were not employed at this time or were unable to be contacted. In response to a question about Tax Credit incentives, Mr. Fountain explained that even though the Office of Economic

Development offers to fill out the paperwork for the employers, most employers still resist using the tax credits. Mr. Blevins revisited the idea of inviting employers to PIC meetings or having breakfast meetings, in an attempt to build stronger relationships with employers.

Advantage Brochure: Mr. Russell distributed a brochure developed by the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) that can be used by both JTPA Counselors and Economic Developers. He asked the Council to review the brochure and let him know if anyone has any suggestions.

Highway Corridor Committee: Mr. Russell reported the Highway Corridor Committee will be sponsoring a presentation on the goal of the Highway Corridor Committee and their involvement with the New York State Department of Transportation in the development of a highway corridor.

County Marketing Group: Mr. Russell reported that the IDA has authorized \$100,000 for a marketing effort in St. Lawrence County, noting all IDA members are committed to continue the same level of assistance or support for two additional years. The goal of the marketing effort is to identify 5 to 7 areas in the United States with low unemployment rates (3% or lower), outreach these areas and inform them of the labor force available here. Mr. Russell will provide periodic updates on the progress of this effort.

NYATEP: Reporting that he and Mr. Fountain just returned on Monday from a New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) conference, he briefly outlined issues raised at the meeting that will be impacting our system. Some of those issues include: coordination among political jurisdictions, Workforce Investment Board's responsibility versus the local elected official's liability, making workforce development a priority (build within the county and raise the Board's visibility), the One-Stop delivery system, performance and accountability issues (report cards on One-Stop performance available to participants and employers and the development of a meaningful evaluation system), and the desire for a minimum state system that allows for maximum local flexibility.

Meeting Schedule: Mr. Russell asked the Council to make suggestions for restaurants to be used as future meeting sites.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blevins thanked Council members for attending this meeting. On motion of Mr. McDougall, the Council meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne M. Novak, Esq.
Secretary