

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 1999 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order to Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:15 PM, Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at the Albany Room, SUNY Canton, Canton, New York.

Members Present: Genevieve Baxter, Douglas Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Greg Davis, John Deal, Donald Doig, Donald Hooper, Joseph Kennedy, Ron McDougall, Jim McFaddin, Joanne Novak, Edmund Russell

Members Absent: Jack Backus, Maureen Buck, Richard Callan, Richard Daddario, Richard DeLaPorte, Robert LaClair, Peter Phelan, Linda Randi, Robert Snider

Others Present: Raymond Fountain, Stephen House, John Manson, David Williams and Natalie Haggart of the Office of Economic Development.

MINUTES

Moved by Mr. McFadden and seconded by Ms. Caswell, the minutes of the January 27, 1999 meeting were accepted. Approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins welcomed members and staff to the meeting. He reminded attendees that he, Ms. Novak, Ms. Caswell, Mr. Backus, Mr. Russell and Mr. Fountain would be attending the 1999 NAPIC Conference in Washington, DC this weekend. He hoped to have more information to bring back and share with the Council. He then noted that Mr. Russell has set up appointments with Senator Schumer and Representative McHugh, or their representatives, to discuss the new legislation and the Highway Corridor project. Mr. Blevins asked if anyone had anything else they would like brought to either Legislators' attention, to please let him know.

Mr. Blevins reminded members a brief 15-20 minute orientation session would be presented tonight and would be the first of an ongoing process to get members acquainted with the PIC and its transformation to a Workforce Development Board.

Mr. Blevins stated he encourages members to visit the One-Stop Career Center at any time and bring comments to the meeting.

Mr. Russell advised members a Workforce Investment Act teleconference will be held on March 17th and that all members are welcome to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Orientation: Mr. Russell began the orientation by reviewing the five titles under the new Workforce Investment Act. Title I – This title contains most of the same elements of JTPA.

Title II – This title deals with Adult Education and Family Literacy. The goals of Title II include obtaining skills for employment, literacy improvement, completion of educational degrees and preparation of parents to become full partners in their child’s education. Title III contains amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act, which deals with employment services. Title IV contains information on Vocational Rehabilitation. Title V deals with the general provisions of the Act. He stated the Act consolidates programs under one law, but continues different funding streams for each title.

Mr. Russell went on to note and describe the key parts of the Act. These key parts include: the One-Stop as the main vehicle for the delivery of services; accountability; universality; and limited funding. He then described the three types of services available to users of the One-Stop: Core Services (universal services open to all); Intensive Services (for individuals who, after utilizing core services, still can not obtain employment) and Training. He explained that this service is for the most barriered, delivered through individual training accounts, whereby a user would receive a voucher which he or she would present to any training provider.

Mr. Russell then explained just a few of the many decisions the Council/Board will have to make. Some of these decisions include the handling of the Summer Youth Program and the negotiation of performance standards with the State, and the certification of training providers for those agencies that will accept the training vouchers.

Mr. Russell then answered questions from the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

“Draft” Welfare-to-Work Plan: Mr. Fountain briefly outlined the Welfare-To-Work Program. He explained the program has specifically targeted and restrictive criteria; and many areas (more in rural than urban areas) may find it difficult to find enough of the targeted population. He noted the draft that was sent out with the meeting materials is a quick overview of the plan. The final plan is scheduled to be submitted within the next few months. Mr. Manson then quickly reviewed the eligibility criteria for the program. He explained that the Federal government has split the funding for two areas. 30% of the funding is for those characterized as having long-term welfare dependency and 70% for those individuals possessing specific barriers identifying them as hardest to serve. Therefore, three hardest to serve clients must be enrolled for every client meeting the 30% funding criteria. The hardest to serve client category (70%) will be difficult to identify, owing to the requirement that each participant suffer from a combination of two of the following three barriers: does not possess a GED or high school diploma and has low skills in reading or mathematics (8.9 grade level or below); requires substance abuse treatment for employment; or has a poor work history (has worked no more than three consecutive months during the past twelve (12) calendar months). To date, approximately 250 files have been reviewed with only 28 clients identified as possibly eligible to be served with 70% funds. The criteria handouts are attached to these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There was no financial report.

STAFF REPORTS

Job Development Unit: Mr. Fountain distributed an Office of Economic Development organizational chart and proceeded to outline the duties of each of the units and explained the duties of the new Job Development Unit. Mr. Fountain explained that the unit will consist of four staff persons - three counselors (who will act as job developers), and a keyboard specialist. He stated that the unit will operate under his supervision for approximately 3 months and then it will be decided how the unit will be incorporated into the existing organization.

One-Stop First Floor: Mr. Fountain reported the first floor renovations are almost complete and the center has begun to work on staffing the first floor. He also noted the One-Stop is still awaiting the State's funding for the \$80,000 Demonstration Grant, part of which will be used toward a unified telephone system.

Youth Program: Mr. Fountain reported that the Summer Youth Program Manager of several years, notified the office that he will not be returning for the 1999 Summer Youth Program. He noted that in anticipation of this and of the new legislation, arrangements have been made for the Youth Bureau Director, Joanne Sevick, to work with Jim Connor, and act as the 1999 Summer Youth Program Manager. He added that Joanne worked for the Office of Economic Development in the past and therefore is knowledgeable of the JTPA Program.

WIA Workgroup: Finally, Mr. Fountain proceeded to explain to the attendees that a workgroup has been created to meet regularly to make recommendations to the Director on how to re-design services in light of WIA. The workgroup consists of volunteers and represents a cross-section of the Office of Economic Development's various units.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blevins thanked Council members for attending this meeting. On motion of Mr. McFaddin, the Council meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne M. Novak, Esq.