

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 1999 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:24 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 1999 at the University Inn/Best Western, Canton, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Genevieve Baxter, Lynn Blevins, Maureen Buck, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Greg Davis, Richard DeLaPorte, Donald Hooper, Joseph Kennedy, Robert LaClair, Jim McFaddin, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan, Linda Randi

Members Absent: Douglas Beachard, John Deal, Donald Doig, Ron McDougall, Robert Snider

Others Present: Jim Connor, Natalie Haggart, Raymond Fountain, Steve House, Edmund Russell, David Williams, and Gretchen Wood of the Office of Economic Development, Walt Paul of BOCES, Tony LaGatta of NYSDOL, and John Twomey of NYATEP.

Mr. Blevins welcomed members, staff and guests to the meeting. Mr. Russell introduced Gretchen Wood, his new Administrative Assistant to the membership. He then introduced John Twomey of NYATEP, who traveled from Albany at the invitation of the membership. Mr. Blevins then asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MINUTES

Moved by Mr. McFaddin and seconded by Mr. Phelan, the minutes of the March 24, 1999 meeting were accepted. Approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins presented his copy of an invitation to attend the St. Lawrence County Economic Development Corridor Working Group dinner, and he presumed that all PIC members received an invitation. He advised that anyone wanting to attend the meeting should contact Mr. Russell so he can make arrangements.

Mr. Blevins noted there will be no meeting of the Private Industry Council in May, and that the next meeting will be held June 23rd at the One-Stop Career Center in Canton.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution Establishing a Support Services Policy: Mr. Russell explained this resolution was originally presented at the March 24th, 1999 meeting. He stated the concerns raised at the last meeting are now addressed in this resolution. The resolution was moved by Mr. McFaddin and seconded by Ms. Novak. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Approving The Job Service Plan: Mr. Russell gave a brief overview of the Job Service Plan. Mr. McFaddin stated that, as a union representative, he is concerned with specific wording in the Job Service Plan which involves seasonal workers, e.g. construction workers, and is looking for some type of assurance that these types of workers will not be harassed by the new UI system. Mr. Daddario noted that those who get their employment through a union hall will not be harassed. Mr. Daddario added that he is attending a meeting with the Department of Labor next week to review the program and get a better understanding of it. Mr. House stated that it is his belief that seasonal employees will be exempt from the UI requirements of job seeking and profiling if the employer indicates he plans on rehiring the employee. Moved by Mr. McFaddin and seconded by Ms. Buck, the resolution was passed unanimously.

Resolution Approving a Funding Policy for Commercial Driver's License Training: Mr. Russell briefly explained the history for presenting this resolution. He noted that this type of training is quite popular and results in both a remarkable placement record and wage. Mr. LaGatta expressed concern that the JTPA legislation prohibits a situation whereby a client incurs debt. Mr. Fountain stated he believes the legislation states that the program should not encourage debt, and ultimately gives the client the ability to make an informed choice. After much discussion, Mr. Phelan recommended passing the resolution with the understanding that if, after further consultation between Mr. Fountain and Mr. LaGatta, the cap on the training would be raised if it was determined necessary. Moved by Mr. Phelan and seconded by Ms. Caswell, the resolution was passed unanimously.

Resolution Requesting a Local Workforce Investment Area Designation: Mr. Fountain explained that an area designated under JTPA as a Service Delivery Area may not necessarily be designated a Workforce Investment Area under the Workforce Investment Act. He went on to explain this resolution is a request by the PIC to the State Board to forward to the Governor a recommendation that St. Lawrence County be designated a Workforce Investment Area and that the PIC also request the Governor to approve the recommendation. Mr. Fountain also asked that an amendment be made to the Resolution before the Council, changing wording in paragraph 1. The amended paragraph would read, "Whereas, St. Lawrence County previously had the Federal designation of Prime Sponsor under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and currently has the designation of Service Delivery Area (SDA) under the Job Training Partnership Act." Noting the amendments were to be accepted and included with the resolution, it was moved by Mr. Phelan and seconded by Ms. Caswell. The resolution passed unanimously.

John Twomey Presentation: Mr. Twomey began by giving a brief history of the New York Association of Employment and Training Professionals (NYATEP). He went on to say that 11 of the 50 states opted to begin operation under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) on July 1, 1999, and that New York State will begin operating under WIA in July of 2000. He presented a timeline that showed the progress of the initiation of the State Board to the designation of a Local Board. He addressed the concerns that many counties have regarding the designation of Workforce Investment Areas, but added that he does not feel designation will be a problem in St. Lawrence County. Mr. Twomey then began to describe the process involved in setting up local

Boards, the development and content of Memorandums of Understanding, and advised of attempts by the State to expand the voucher pool.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports. However, Mr. Blevins recommended setting up a committee to review, in general terms, Board structure, Board expansion, how the Board will operate and staffing. Mr. Blevins stated he spoke with Mr. Beachard earlier in the day and that Mr. Beachard volunteered to be a part of the committee. Others who volunteered to be on the committee are, in addition to Mr. Beachard, Ms. Caswell, Mr. Phelan, and Mr. Blevins. Mr. Blevins indicated the committee would get together some time in the next two months.

FINANCIAL REPORT

After a brief discussion and review, moved by Mr. Backus and seconded by Ms. Novak, the Financial Report for March of 1999 was accepted. Passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Russell noted he would not present any orientation information at this meeting, but would continue with the presentation at the June meeting.

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Mr. Phelan suggested that One-Stop partners might begin working on preliminary agreements (MOU's). There were no objections from the membership.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blevins thanked Council members for attending the meeting. On motion of Ms. Caswell and seconded by Ms. Novak, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Novak, Esq.
Secretary