

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
AKA State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB)
Thursday, March 18, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.
Grant Sawyer Building – Suite 4401
555 East Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Cass Palmer (Chairperson), Clara Andriola, Mary-Ann Brown, Jo Cato, Jim Chavis, Assemblyman Chad Christensen, Pamela Egan, David Fordham, Douglas Geinzer, Kathy Grost, Alvin Kramer, Leslie Martin, Veronica Meter, Larry Mosley, Assemblyman James Ohrenschall, Maite Salazar, Dr. Maria Sheehan, Geoff Wilson, Stacy Woodbury

Absent: Senator Maggie Carlton, Senator Allison Copening, Richard Lee, Jean Peyton, Dr. Keith Rheault, Mike Wilden

Also present: Ardell Galbreth (DETR – Deputy Director), Jeff Wilson (NevadaWorks – Board Chairperson), David Jefferson (Workforce Connections – Staff), Bill Anderson (DETR – Chief Economist), Renee Olson (DETR – Chief Financial Officer), Connie Williams (DETR – Workforce Investment Support Services Unit), Tamara Nash (Staff)

I. WELCOME – Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He welcomed new members Joe Cato, Kathy Grost, and Dr. Maria Sheehan to the Board.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS – The new Board members introduced themselves.

III. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM – Roll call was heard and a quorum of nineteen members was determined.

IV. VERIFICATION OF POSTING – Ardell Galbreth, DETR Deputy Director, stated for the record that the meeting was noticed and properly posted in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law.

V. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING MINUTES – The following correction was noted: (a) on page 18, under Board member Fordham's comments, the wording "insubordinate" should be changed to read "in total since last time for the application of..."

Larry Mosley moved to approve the December 10, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. David Fordham seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. REPORT: STATE ENERGY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT – Ardell Galbreth, DETR Deputy Director, stated the grant was started back in July, 2009 based on solicitation received from the U. S. Department of Labor and was submitted to the Department by October 20, 2009. The grant was to establish strategies that target energy efficiency and renewable industries throughout Nevada. It is also to provide green and renewable energy sector training. On January 20, 2010, they received notification that \$6 million has been awarded. They were currently in the process of allocating funding. He reviewed information regarding Board and agency roles.

Board member Mosley added apprenticeship was also included in the grant.

VII. REPORT: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT/WAGNER-PEYSER STATE PLAN ACTIVITIES – This item was presented later in the meeting by Board member Chavis.

VIII. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD REPORTS

A. NevadaWorks - Jeff Wilson, NevadaWorks Board Chairperson, stated there was no new information to report.

B. Workforce Connections (Formerly Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board) – David Jefferson, Staff, reported Project 5000: “Work Happens” is a summer 2010 program campaign to place 5,000 youth in work-readiness related activities. A kick-off event will be held on April 8, 2010 at the Historic 5th Street School in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information regarding the event can be received on their website. “Youth bill: Las Vegas” was awarded a youth bill grant in the amount of \$1.1 million for three years. The goal is to assist students with attaining their GED or high school diploma as well as gain knowledge of vocational training, construction sites, counseling, as well as leadership skills. The program will be held in nine month increments and will have 35 participants. There was a required match on this grant from the Department of Labor and \$1,000 has already been received in donations.

IX. GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (GWIB) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governor’s Reserve Funds Budget Committee - Board member Fordham reported one program has been approved since the last Committee meeting and that was to fund \$228,000 for use by the Marketing Committee for an outside vendor. Tamara Nash noted the notice of award for the new vendor has not yet been issued. Board member Fordham reported Committee meetings were held monthly and volunteers were needed for the Committee. There were three Committee members currently. Chairperson Palmer stated individuals interested in serving on the Commission can contact Ms. Nash.

B. Marketing & Business Support Committee – Steven Airamani, Arsenal Advertising, reported they were moving forward on action items, which had been previously postponed due to budget problems. A target completion date was scheduled for May 10, 2010 so a report would be provided at the next quarterly meeting. He provided a brief re-cap of action items.

C. Youth Council – Board member Salazar reported changes were made to the Youth Council Strategic Plan regarding age requirements. A final draft of the plan with the proposed changes will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. There were two strategic priorities: 1) to support a system that creates employment for youth and 2) to increase Nevada’s high school graduation rate by 10% by 2013. The ultimate goal was to have all Nevada youth graduate from high school and prepared for post-secondary education or training. Board member Salazar reviewed previous and current seats available on the Council. She noted the seat for the Ready for Life representative has been changed to a non-voting seat. Youth Council meetings will continue monthly for another year with a determination to be made in the future to change the meeting schedule. They will have a recurring agenda with reports from different entities to continue to align the vision and the mission for Nevada youth as well as provide a speaking opportunity for a representative from Nevada System of Higher Education, the Department of K-12 and Ready for Life. With regards to end of year funding, there are four year-round youth service providers: The Project We Foundation; Children’s Cabinet; Boulder City Youth Employment Program; and Churchill County Stimulus Summer Youth Program. Programs end June 30, 2010.

Chairperson Palmer asked about the number of students that would represent the proposed 10% graduation rate. Board member Salazar stated it was hard to define because of changes to the tracking system. Chairperson Palmer commended the Council for their efforts with Nevada’s youth and encouraged Board members to contact Ms. Nash if interested in serving on this Council.

Board member Sheehan commended the goal for the graduation rate. She asked how the post-secondary education or training level would be established. Board member Salazar reported they were working with local Boards to establish a better measurement of services. Sandra Cook, Nevada Public Education Foundation – Southern Nevada region, reported a statewide council was being established to determine the factors that would determine if students were ready for post-secondary education or work-related training.

Board member Grost asked if Ready for Life was focused exclusively on underprivileged students. Board member Salazar explained socio-economics was considered as well as overall risk factors.

D. Green and Renewable Energy Sector Jobs Council – Board member Andriola explained the Council was currently trying to clarify and align objectives accordingly. She reported she was recently appointed to the new Green Energy Task Force who was facing similar issues. She stated the next report presented to the Board would have more tangent and clear information.

Board member Christensen asked where information regarding green and renewable energy was received. Board member Andriola reported the Council was currently identifying where to find that information.

Board member Mosley suggested developing a collaborative bridge with the Green Energy Task Force because one of the objectives from the Governor is to develop collaboration, especially in this area.

Board member Ohrenschall asked if there was a way to attract more manufacturers of renewable energy sources to Nevada. Board member Andriola reported the Task Force was representative of renewable energy sources distribution and was determining how to bring that revenue stream to the State of Nevada. She explained the Council needs to clarify its purpose and then determine how to capture that industry information for discussion and economic development.

Board member Woodbury reported the Commission on Economic Development has been working with Board member Mosley and the Director of Energy on opening renewable energy plants relocating from overseas in the State of Nevada.

Board member Mosley reported DETR was currently re-designing the Strategic Plan, which would be in alignment with economic development and work from the various Boards.

Chairperson Palmer stated the focus should be on establishing a trained work force ready to take future renewable energy positions.

E. Workforce Planning, Policy, and Performance Policy Committee – Board member Chavis reported a Committee meeting was held on March 18, 2010. Board changes to the Strategic Plan were finalized at that meeting. They also began the process of developing the Strategic Plan. Board member Chavis reported the meeting also reviewed the self-sufficiency wage analysis, which is a survey of all Nevada counties that determines the average wage individuals will need to sustain themselves with a livable wage. Ardell Galbreth, DETR Deputy Director, explained self-sufficient wage eligibility requirements were needed for individuals to join On-the-Job-Training (OJT) otherwise sanctions would be imposed by the Department of Labor. Board member Chavis reported the transfer of funds between programs under the Workforce Investment Act State Compliance Policies was approved. Mr. Galbreth clarified youth funds cannot be transferred to adult programs and vice versa, but wavers can transfer funds. Connie Williams, Workforce Investment Support Services Unit Program Specialist, explained the policy had to be revised because the 100% transfer could not be done and only 30% of stimulus funds could be transferred. She explained formula funds were received annually and stimulus funds received were only one-time and were only good through June 30, 2011.

Debra Campbell, Debra Campbell & Associates, commented that the work facing the Workforce Investment Board was alignment and developing a road map for the work over the next few years. She reported she was working on the first draft of the Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the Committee and the Board before the 30-day posting requirement in May.

Board member Meter requested to know the difference between the Strategic Plan and the framework that was recently completed. Ms. Campbell stated the framework was the overall picture and the Strategic Plan would provide information in chart format and would also reflect Committee work.

Board member Mosley encouraged Board members to review the report because the framework aligns closely to the Governor's functional strategic objectives, but DETR was developing a Strategic Plan that aligns with the Governor's objectives and various Committee and Board objectives. He expressed his appreciation of the work completed on this issue.

Mr. Galbreth commented that the action plan will show the different types of goals being achieved and strategic tactics to achieve those goals with economic development. Mr. Galbreth provided an example.

Board member Mosley reported he was reviewing OJT training programs throughout the country.

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Approval of “Nevada’s New Workforce for Economic Prosperity: A Framework for Nevada’s Workforce System Strategic Plan 2010-14” – Larry Mosley moved to approve the “Nevada’s New Workforce for Economic Prosperity: A Framework for Nevada’s Workforce System Strategic Plan 2010-14”. Jim Chavis seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Economic Overview – With a PowerPoint© presentation, Bill Anderson, DETR Research and Analysis Bureau Chief Economist, reported 200,000 jobs have been lost since the beginning of the recession in December 2007, which was worse than the national average. Healthcare, education services, and mining have experienced little impact, but all of the jobs that

were created in construction have been lost. The unemployment rate is at approximately 13%, which is the second highest rate nationwide. He reviewed some improvements in the economy.

Board member Wilson commented that there should be a focus on construction workers who lost their jobs during the economic downturn. It was explained that the skill set learned from construction could be used in green and renewable energy jobs.

Board member Mosley reported it was brought to his attention that approximately 500-1,000 jobs could be created by developing solar that would retrofit to household items and that those types of components were being considered for economic development. He asked for an update on the tracking of unemployment by gender. Mr. Anderson reported the framework for tracking unemployment by gender, race, and age has begun. He explained the recession has impacted more male-dominated fields, minorities, and the youth workforce.

Board member Meter commented that there was a Bill passed by the legislature that would create 10,000 new construction jobs in transportation.

Board member Grost asked if there has been a reduction in population due to the economic downturn and what kind of impact that could have on economic development. Mr. Anderson reported from 2007-2008, the population growth has been reduced to zero, which is having an economic impact.

Board member Carlton asked if underground Hispanic unemployment was taken into consideration when tracking unemployment rates. Mr. Anderson stated they do not have the capabilities to track that information, specifically, but they do have the capabilities to review the “under-employed”, which is at approximately 20%. Board member Carlton commented on the difficulty facing the youth workforce and cited a personal example.

B. WIA Financial Update – Renee Olson, DETR Chief Financial Officer, reported planning targets will be received for the next regular formula funding period.

C. WIA Performance Update – Connie Williams, Program Specialist, DETR - Workforce Investment Support Services Unit, reviewed decreases in current WIA performances.

Board member Brown asked if local workforce investment boards were investigating youth literacy and reporting their findings to the Youth Council. Ms. Williams stated she could not answer that. She explained the problems with this measure have been youth remaining in the program for long periods of time and the lack of case managers. Board member Brown asked if there has been mitigation by looking at another way of measuring youth literacy and attainment. Ms. Williams noted the Department of Ed set the criteria for this measure and it was not known what measures were being taken at the local level. Ardell Galbreth, DETR Deputy Director, reported there were entities that were reviewing measures.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comment requests.

Board member Fordham commented on a recent proposal funded by the Budget Committee for a Ready for Life project in the amount of \$600,000. He requested an update on the project be presented at the next meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. **It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**