

H0nGOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
AKA State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB)
Thursday, June 17, 2010– 1:00 p.m.
Grant Sawyer Building – Suite 4401
555 East Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF MEETING

- Present:** Cass Palmer (Chairperson), Jo Cato, Jim Chavis, Pamela Egan, David Fordham, Douglas Geinzer, Kathy Grost, Eric James, Alvin Kramer, Richard Lee, Leslie Martin, Charlie Nguyen, Jean Peyton, Geoff Wilson, Frank Woodbeck, Stacy Woodbury
- Absent:** Clara Andriola, Mary-Ann Brown, Maggie Carlton, Chad Christensen, Allison Copening, Veronica Meter, Larry Mosley, Keith Rheault, Maite Salazar, Maria Sheehan, Mike Willden
- Also present:** William Anderson (DETR - Chief Economist), Cindy Jones (DETR – Deputy Director & Employment Security Division – Administrator), Ardell Galbreth (DETR – Deputy Director), Brad Woodring (NV Energy – Economic Development Manager), Tom Fitzgerald (NevadaWorks – Executive Director), John Ball (Workforce Connections – Executive Director), Sylvia Spencer (Workforce Connections – Youth Program Director), Chanda Cook (Southern Region of Nevada Public Education Foundation – Director), Kerry Earl (Northern Region of Nevada Public Education Foundation - Director), Renee Olson (DETR – CFO), Connie Williams (DETR), Tamara Nash (Staff)

- I. WELCOME** – Chairperson Palmer called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.
- II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS** – Chairperson Palmer welcomed new Board members: Eric James, Charlie Nguyen, and Frank Woodbeck.
- III. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of sixteen members was determined.
- IV. VERIFICATION OF POSTING** – Ardell Galbreth (DETR) reported the meeting was noticed and properly posted in accordance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law.
- V. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2010 MEETING MINUTES – Geoff Wilson moved to approve the March 18, 2010 meeting minutes. Richard Lee seconded the Motion. Motion carried.**
- VI. PRESENTATION: NEVADA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK** – William Anderson (DETR – Chief Economist) stated he included broad economic overviews within the information packet provided to Board members and that, for this meeting, he would provide information regarding the labor market situation across various demographic groups. He stated the unemployment rate is a model-driven estimate that is generated in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and includes individuals who are not receiving unemployment benefits. He reported the total unemployment rate is reviewed on a 12-month moving average. As of April, there was a 13.7% unemployment rate, which was approximately 12.8% based on the 12-month moving average and has been steadily increasing. He explained the unemployment rate for men, minority groups, and the youth workforce was higher compared to other demographics. He noted he would discuss under-employment at the next meeting.

Board member Wilson asked if there was a low rate for the 55+ age group because of low participation. Mr. Anderson replied yes and that the different work sectors was also a factor.

Board member Fordham suggested the current unemployment rate be available before these meetings are held, in order for discussion. Mr. Anderson explained the rates become available either on a Friday or a Monday around the 20th of every month. Tamara Nash stated she would provide Board members with the current unemployment rate information when it is released tomorrow and that the 2011 Meeting Schedule would be coordinated around this information.

Board member James requested to know how unemployment rates will be affected locally with the expiration of federal funds for extended unemployment benefits. Mr. Anderson stated unemployment rates are determined by the number of individuals looking for work and not based on individuals who receive unemployment benefits. Cindy Jones (Employment Security Division – Administrator) added Congress was still considering extending the period of extensions for the Unemployment Insurance Program.

Board member Lee asked how individuals who are looking for work, but who are not on unemployment are tracked. Mr. Anderson stated it was estimated through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Current Population Survey of 1,000 households in the State.

Chairperson Palmer asked how the 1,000 households were chosen for the survey. Mr. Anderson stated this is completed by a random sample and that households move through the survey on a rotating basis once included in the survey.

VII. REPORT: DETR GRANT INITIATIVES – Ardell Galbreth (DETR – Deputy Director) reported they were in the process of developing the grant for the State Initiative Sector’s Partnership Grant in the amount of \$6 million. In addition, a proposal application was submitted for an OJT (On-Job Training) Grant under the National Emergency Grant System in the amount of \$7.5 million. A response was expected soon. This grant would allow a contract with employers to subsidize employee wages by 50-90%. They were also working with Economic Development regarding projections of expanding businesses and new businesses being developed. He noted the State of Nevada has met or exceeded all performance measures, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Board member Wilson asked about the dollar amount of the OJT Grant. Mr. Galbreth reported \$7.5 million was being requested. Board member Wilson asked when the State Initiative Sector’s Partnership Grant was received. Mr. Galbreth reported it was received January 20, 2010 and that details of the grant were being worked on. Board member Wilson asked if there was a deadline for completing the grant. Mr. Galbreth reported there was no deadline, but the goal was to complete the grant as soon as possible.

Board member Grost asked if grant verbiage was available for review. Mr. Galbreth stated the complete grant application will be sent to all Board members.

Board member Cato requested to know if the \$6 million received from the Partnership Grant could also be used for OJT. Mr. Galbreth replied yes. Board member Cato commented on the benefits from the OJT Program.

Chairperson Palmer commended the issuance of the complete grant application to all Board members and to DETR for obtaining grants.

Board member Wilson suggested providing an Executive Summary of grants to Board members to reduce paperwork. It was noted grant applications would be sent to Board members electronically.

VIII. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD REPORTS

A. NevadaWorks – Board member Wilson stated he was the NevadaWorks Board Chair through the end of the month and that Brad Woodring (NV Energy – Economic Development Manager), the NevadaWorks Chair-Elect, would be providing a report. Mr. Woodring introduced himself and stated he would answer questions regarding the Quarterly Report issued by Tom Fitzgerald.

Board member Fordham commended the approach of consolidating the computer system and Internet web sources. He asked if there was an estimate of the cost savings. Mr. Woodring stated there was no previous program like this; therefore, there is no cost savings. He noted Job Connect was a separate program. Ardell Galbreth (DETR – Deputy Director) added NevadaWorks was a supplemental job search program, but could be linked to Job Connect. Board member Fordham asked if this program was in competition with Job Connect. Tom Fitzgerald (NevadaWorks – Executive Director) explained NevadaWorks provides a single link to all job search websites rather than individually through Job Connect.

Board member Fordham commended NevadaWorks for this approach and asked why this was not done state-wide. Mr. Galbreth reported some funding was received from this Board for this program and that a proposal may be submitted to the Board for this approach to be used state-wide. Mr. Fitzgerald noted the funding received from this Board was used for the work force survey for this program. Board member Wilson commented on the scalable technology developed with this program. Mr. Woodring noted the website would also review data on the types of jobs individuals are looking for and where training is going to be required.

B. Workforce Connections (Formerly Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board) – John Ball (Workforce Connections – Executive Director) acknowledged the collaborative efforts with NevadaWorks. He reported they are in the process of renewing contracts for next year with reduced allocations. They were focusing on building performance incentives into grants for contractors to receive additional allocations as building performance increases. They would also be looking at a couple of sectors for specific requests for proposals, specifically Healthcare and Green Energy. There would be a State-wide Re-Entry Program developed in a few of weeks. The Department of Labor audited and declared the Youth Program an exemplary program. Chair and Vice-Chair elections would be held next week. He commented on the state-wide collaboration on the Ready for Life Program.

Sylvia Spencer (Workforce Connections – Youth Program Director) reported their improved performance was attributed to improving the graduation rate for Nevada and re-engaging youth that have dropped out. They have also established an Education sub-committee through the Ready for Life Program.

Chanda Cook (Southern Region of Nevada Public Education Foundation – Director) reported they have secured a Clark County School District counselor to provide an academic evaluation of youth involved in the WIA Program both year-round and summer to determine where they are and what is needed. Last year, the evaluation determined 19 out of 140 youth were on target for graduation. The Clark County School District's Director of Career and Technical Education has been assigned as the Liaison to Workforce Connections and the Project 5000 Kids, which would provide an opportunity for programs to work together through federal funding provided. They have also reached an agreement with the Clark County School District to reduce the tuition for work-experience credits from \$100 to \$50 if a threshold of 150 youth was attained this summer.

Kerry Earl (Northern Region of Nevada Public Education Foundation - Director) reported their primary focus has been on supporting the rural communities in the Ready for Life Program by providing resources and strategic planning, but they have been making great progress in continuing their reduction in truancy rates. In Washoe County, they have been partnering with other agencies to establish the Sierra Tahoe Center for Arts and Technology which will focus on providing individuals from youth to age 60 with a livable wage, training and employment at a livable wage.

Mr. Ball added the Nevada Community Foundation was in the process of re-aligning their discretionary community grants around the Ready for Life Program, which may be in excess of \$100,000 a year for three years. An update will be provided at the next meeting on the Project 5000 Kids program. Significant business partnerships were being arranged for this program. A 2010 Ready for Life Summit will be held on November 8, 2010. A location in Southern Nevada for the event is yet to be determined. As of June 7, 2010, they have spent approximately \$84,000 from the \$645,000 grant with a remaining contract amount of \$560,000.

Board member Fordham commented that a combination of funding from different agencies for the project was in excess of \$1.2 million. He asked if someone from the Northern or Southern Region have reviewed line items to determine that deadlines were met and the program was on track. Mr. Ball clarified the \$1.2 million was for the Project 5000 Kids program. There was an extensive discussion with the Nevada Public Education Foundation to develop a detailed work plan, which has been distributed to State agencies and that it was assessed that they were on schedule.

Chairperson Palmer commended the presentation given and efforts with the programs and agencies.

Board member James asked if a Program Administrator or Supervisor has been assigned to the Prison Re-Entry Program. Mr. Ball reported interviews have been held this week for the Project Coordinator position. Board member James requested the Board be notified when the position is filled.

Board member Grost requested to know if the Ready for Life Program serves only economically-disadvantaged or underprivileged youth and, if so, what the Foundation was doing to provide work force development projects for the other population. Mr. Ball clarified the Work Force Investment Act targets a specific set of eligibility criteria, but the Ready for Life Program was for all youth. Ms. Cook explained their goal was to have all youth connected to successful careers or work by keeping youth in school or to re-engage them. Ms. Spencer stated the intent of the Project 5000 Kids Program is to make available all services to all youth.

At this time, Chairperson Palmer announced agenda item IXE would be heard next due to time constraints by some Board members.

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

E. Workforce Planning, Policy, and Performance Policy Committee

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Approval of "Nevada's New Workforce for Economic Prosperity: A Framework for Nevada's Workforce System Strategic Plan 2010-14" – With a PowerPoint© presentation, Deborah Campbell reviewed the Strategic Plan 2010-2014. She stated the main objective was to align Nevada's workforce development system with its work force to create a global competitive advantage. She recommended that Board and Committee agendas consistently address the Plan, if adopted, to keep on track. Board member Chavis commended the efforts to include input from all entities into the Strategic Plan.

Board member Wilson asked if there was an adequate information system for new Board members and, if not, how that can be created to get new Board members up-to-speed on issues. Discussion was heard about the development of an information system that includes Board direction.

David Fordham moved to adopt the "Nevada's New Workforce for Economic Prosperity: A Framework for Nevada's Workforce System Strategic Plan 2010-2014" as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Due to time constraints, Chairperson Palmer requested that only questions, if any, for the remaining Committee and Staff Reports be presented at this time from the information provided in Board packets.

A. Governor's Reserve Funds Budget Committee – There were no questions asked for this item.

B. Marketing & Business Support Committee – There were no questions asked for this item.

C. Youth Council – There were no questions asked for this item.

D. Green and Renewable Energy Sector Jobs Council – There were no questions asked for this item.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Financial Update – Board member Fordham noted the Budget Committee did not approve the \$100,000 allocation listed for the Strategic Plan Initiatives dated April 20, 2010. Board member Chavis noted this allocation was listed in the Strategic Plan and was part of the state-wide initiative. He stated state-wide funds are taken from the Governor's reserve prior to the Budget Committee's review. Chairperson Palmer requested DETR Staff provide written information to better clarify this information.

B. WIA Performance Update – Board member Wilson asked why there was a significant difference in the percentage information for the Attainment of Degree Certificate in the Northern Region and Southern Region. Mr. Galbreth stated statistics for both regions were the same and that the information provided to the Board may be from the last previous quarter. Mr. Ball explained they were the lagging indicator, but that they were striving for improvement.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Board member Grost requested information regarding funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that was to be used for education, in particular career and economic development. Mr. Galbreth stated those allocations would be received from the Department of Education and that the Department of Education was coordinating with the GWIB on program development. Tamara Nash noted Board member, Dr. Keith Rheault, was the Superintendent for the Department of Education.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.