

# COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

Approved June 10, 2008

## MEETING MINUTES

**March 4, 2008**

**Milwaukee**

- Members Present:** Tim Sullivan (Chair), Joel Rogers (Vice Chair), Ron Danowski (CWI Executive Director), Robert Borremans, Thomas Burse, Sharon Canter, William Chaudoir, Dan Clancy, Jewel Currie, Lisa Patrick (for Rick Raemisch), Roberta Gassman, Jim Haney, Susan Hatch, John Heyer, James Hill, Karen Timberlake (for Kevin Hayden), Tina Koehn, Ashwini Rao (for Gayle Kugler), Phil Neuenfeldt, Lee Rasch, Mark Reihl, Christopher Ruud, Andrew Schuster (for John Scocos), Joan Wilk.
- Members Absent:** Daniel Andrist, Lyle Balistreri, Colleen Bates, Elizabeth Burmaster, Spencer Coggs, Kathleen Drengler, Jack Fischer, Barbara Fleisner, Joe Leibham, Kent Olson, Donald Rouse, Julia Taylor, Dean Welch, Josh Zepnick.
- CWI Staff Present:** Gary Denis, Pamela O'Brien, Amy Phillips.
- Others Present:** Cayte Anderson (Pathways to Independence); Myra L. Edwards, (Mayor Barrett's office); Don Sykes, Dimitri Mack (MA WIB) Lena Funseth, Charlene Dwyer, Randy Sommerfeld, Leslie Miokin, Dianne Reynolds (DWD); Pat Schramm (SCW WDA); Francisco Sanchez (WOW WDA); Cheryl Welch (FV WDA); Mike Mortell (Milwaukee 7); Mari Kay-Nabozny (NW WIB); Jayson Chung (WTCS).

### Key Issues/Discussion

#### I. - II. Call to Order, Minutes

Chair Tim Sullivan welcomed attendees to Milwaukee and called the meeting to order. Mr. Jewel Currie, seconded by Mr. Christopher Ruud, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting. The motion was unanimously adopted.

#### III.A. Presentation on Governor Doyle's new GROW Wisconsin Plan

Ms. Roberta Gassman, Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), highlighted Governor Jim Doyle's *GROW* Wisconsin: Accelerate – Innovate, Next Steps Plan that would be reflected in the Governor's budget. She identified the activities that were included based on the CWI's recommendations and previously funded projects. In addition, Secretary Gassman announced that funding for Emerging Industries Skills Partnership will shortly be unveiled for activities throughout the State via the Workforce Development Boards.

#### III.B. Report on Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED)

Mr. Mike Mortell, Coordinator, WIRED, explained the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) two awards in Wisconsin for the third generation WIRED grants. He noted some lessons learned from the earlier WIRED grants in other areas of the country. Mr. Mortell stressed that their activities will set into motion major transformation that is sustainable for the whole workforce system, and presented details of the Southeast WIRED project.

[http://www.doleta.gov/wired/regions/2g\\_Southeastern\\_Wisconsin.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/wired/regions/2g_Southeastern_Wisconsin.cfm)

Dr. Robert Borremans, Southwest Wisconsin workforce Development Board and CWI Member, introduced Ms. Pat Schramm, Executive Director, South Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area, as co-coordinator of the second Wisconsin WIRED grant in Southwest and South Central Wisconsin. He noted that the *Grow* grants provided the groundwork to move forward with their initiatives. [www.wdbscw.org](http://www.wdbscw.org)

Mr. Joel Rogers stated that while the WIRED infusion was promising and optimistic, he wanted to know what larger scale impacts were expected to increase the "volume" as a system. Ms. Schramm indicated that for the first time on a consistent basis, they now have high-end companies at the table to be able to take the workforce system to scale. Even with the relatively small funding, employers are more encouraged to chip in monetarily and volunteer time so they can embark on new approaches and activities without having to go back to the system that has often slowed or stagnated past efforts. Secretary Gassman ensured the CWI that these activities will not be isolated pilots but rather part of a statewide strategy. Mr. Rogers also asked the CWI what other means there were to have the business sector make these major commitments.

#### IV. Update on Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board [See Power Point]

Mr. Don Sykes, President of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, summarized the progress of restructuring and establishing new goals of positive change for an integrated, vibrant workforce system. He detailed via the power point these essential changes that were vital first steps to ground the implementation of revised service delivery activities including, for example, the breaking down of the silo program mentality by developing front-door navigators at the job centers to assist anyone regardless of individual program funding streams. In that regard, Mr. Sykes noted the mismatch between people's expectations and the actual amount of resources currently available. Finally, he reported that next steps included an approved Workforce Investment Act (WIA) local plan and Workforce Development Board, plus the review of staff alignment in order to carry out the new goals and strategies.

#### V. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Ron Danowski, CWI Executive Director and DWD Division of Employment Training, stated that from past Workforce System Development Committee work and CWI recommendations, he is packaging WIA waiver requests that would be discussed with the CWI and submitted to DOL. The Chair interjected that he has requested an Executive Committee meeting in the near future to review the waivers and then report to the CWI. Mr. Sullivan stated that he also wants to have a broader discussion both at the Executive Committee meeting and the next CWI meeting for recommendations to the Governor on streamlining administration, program priorities, ensuring performance outcomes, and other strategies for an improved workforce system. He also noted that in the context of what his own company commits to training, the WIRED, WIA, etc. public dollars are a drop in the bucket to effect systemic change so he wants further discussion on how to free-up funds and direct those resources to meet the essential needs of the State-- the number one priority being narrowing the chasm between employer's needs for skilled workers and the lack of appropriately skilled (job skills and social skills) job seekers. Mr. Currie concurred, and also expressed concerns about the appropriateness and effectiveness of training providers selected particularly in the trades occupations.

Another concern the Chair added was the current screening of candidates for training programs, and the need for improved initial assessments. Mr. Sullivan also indicated that the private sector will participate only if they see actual results such as more employees adequately trained to meet employers needs and retention efforts. There was consensus that an Executive Committee meeting would convene to discuss these issues and roll them out for discussion at the June CWI meeting. Other Executive Committee agenda items would be the review of the State's draft plan on federal funds for technical colleges and Department of Public Instruction (Carl d. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act). It was requested that a summary of the Perkins draft plan be posted on the CWI website. Secretary Gassman suggested that the recommendations from the

Executive Committee could be opened up to include the information from today's meetings for a full CWI discussion.

The Executive Director summarized the results from the CWI's December meeting and follow-up input on Job Center redesign. [See Power Point] Mr. Danowski stated that the next step will be to take these ideas and incorporate them into the GROW and RISE efforts statewide.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Attachments/Handouts/Webconnections:

WORK: Workforce Strategies and Solutions, Milwaukee 7

Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board Progress Summary