

# COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

~ Draft Pending Approval ~

## MEETING MINUTES

Concourse Hotel - Madison, WI  
June 6, 2005

**Members Present:** Governor Jim Doyle, Paul Linzmeyer (chair), Lyle Balistreri, Aaron Olver (for Mary Burke), Margaret Ellibee (for Elizabeth Burmaster), Thomas Burse, Jayson Chung (for Dan Clancy), Terry Craney, Jewel Currie, Roberta Gassman, Joe Gilles, Jim Haney, John Wagnitz (for Senator Dave Hansen), James Hill, Tina Koehn, Doug Moquin, Fredi-Ellen Bove (for Helene Nelson), Phil Neuenfeldt, Lee Rasch, Mark Reihl, Don Rouse, Kathy Hinze (for Christopher Ruud), Patrick Schillinger, John Scocos, Georgann Stinson, Norma Tirado, Dean Welch, Joan Wilk, Representative Josh Zepnick.

**Members Absent:** Kathleen Drengler, Barbara Fleisner, Matthew Frank, John Heyer, Donald Layden, Senator Joe Leibham, Xiong Lo, A. Kent Olson, Sally Peltz, Joel Rogers, Julia Taylor, David Vierthaler.

**CWI Staff Present:** Sue Gleason (CWI Liaison), Fred Bartol, Sheryl Billups, Ron Danowski, Jesus Guerrero, Gloria Kirchoff, Pamela O'Brien, Bea Jay Panke, Mary Pasholk, Linda Williamson

**Others Present:** Angela Russell, Timothy Casper (Governor's Office); Bill Clingan, Connie Colussy, Dianne Reynolds, Rita Black-Radloff, Theola Carter, Diane Knutson, Sheila Knox, Jerry Jacobson, Karl Peerson (DWD/DWS); Malika Monger (DHFS); Bob Borremans (SWWDB); Sally Cutler (NCWWDB); Jerry Hanoski (Western WDA); Dale Hopkins (WDBSCW); Beth Norris (Southeastern WDA); Francisco Sanchez (WOW WDB); Cheryl Welch (FWWDB); Dave Wilson (Milwaukee PIC); Teresa Barch (WAJTE/WWDA); Christina Martinez (UMOS); Kay Moormann, Nancy Merrill (WTCS); Justin Markofski (Northport Apartment Corp.)

### Key Issues/Discussion

#### I. Call to Order/Minutes

Paul Linzmeyer (chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 12:40 p.m. He announced that agenda items would be rearranged to accommodate the arrival of Governor Doyle. (Minutes were not addressed.)

#### II. Committee Reports

##### A. Executive Committee

Linzmeyer reviewed Executive Committee actions from the last meeting, including approval of four grants. He noted that the Growing Regional Opportunities for Wisconsin (GROW) grant program generated significant discussion during Committee meetings; two other grant programs --job center staff development certification and WDB Baldrige Self-Assessment -- are intended to improve quality of job center services and board leadership. Sue Gleason provided a brief summary of the Milwaukee Workforce Development Landscape), noting that it would involve surveying providers and interviewing key stakeholders.

The Committee also approved three letters on behalf of the Council. These included letters to the Governor supporting the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion (COBE) and state funding for Youth Apprenticeship and expansion of funding for healthcare Youth Apprenticeships, as well as letters to Wisconsin's Congressional delegation expressing concern about reductions to Adult Education and Family Literacy programs and the President's proposal to eliminate Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act programs.

Two Executive Committee Subcommittees also reported on activities.

- Dislocated Worker Subcommittee. Jim Haney reported that the Subcommittee met twice, during which it approved an improved process for requesting funds, one that would place more emphasis on outcomes.
- Medicaid Infrastructure Grant/Bridges to Work Subcommittee. Representative Zepnick noted that a subgroup of the Subcommittee completed a strategic planning design meeting in late May. The Subcommittee has eight teams working on specific issues: technology, transition from school to work; measuring cost-benefits, creating a single seamless system, increasing access to health insurance and health care, employer incentives, public awareness, and partnerships and collaboration.

#### B. Workforce Strategies Committee

Dean Welch (co-chair) noted that the merger of two previous committees into the Workforce Strategies Committee appears to be a success. The new committee has identified several key strategies and is working to identify those on which they should focus and come up with actionable items. He also reviewed the Committee's actions since the last full CWI meeting, which resulted in the actions of the Executive Committee reported by Linzmeyer (e.g., letters of support). He also noted that the Committee will be focusing on youth apprenticeship, retaining an educated workforce (brain drain), and alignment of initiatives behind the regional partnership grant initiatives.

Lee Rasch (co-chair) further explained that the Committee has identified 10 strategies on which it will be working and will be working next to sequence them, framing the Committee's future work. He noted that the Committee spent considerable time discussing the Regional Partnership grant and therefore did not spend much time on electronic systems and tools as planned. The next meeting will be July 20.

#### C. Workforce System Development Committee

Joe Gilles (co-chair) reported on the actions of the Committee on grants, which the Executive Committee approved at its previous meeting. He and Tina Koehn (co-chair) also noted that the Committee had approved the charge for an Ad Hoc subcommittee on Milwaukee. Finally, he noted that the Committee planned to work on metrics in the future, and was awaiting the metrics report from Joel Rogers and DWD.

### III. **Liaison's Report**

Sue Gleason reviewed material that was provided to Committee members as handouts. These included the "Inventory of Wisconsin's Workforce Education and Training Programs", Wisconsin Projections, GROW grant guidelines, and WIA Local Plan Summaries.

### IV. **Governor Jim Doyle's Remarks to the Council**

Roberta Gassman (DWD Secretary) and Linzmeyer introduced the Governor when he arrived. The Governor thanked all CWI members and especially the Chair, Paul Linzmeyer, for the vision he brought to the Council's work.

The Governor reminded the CWI of his original charge to the CWI to help move Wisconsin toward a high end workforce. ***He announced that he planned to make September "Workforce Development Month" to help advance the focus on that effort.***

The Governor proceeded to highlight some of the strengths of Wisconsin's economy that have emerged over the last year or two, noting that Wisconsin led all Midwest states in economic growth and that the state's manufacturing sector led the nation. He also pointed to a number of key challenges. These included creating higher end jobs and making sure we are drawing talent from all parts of the state.

Governor Doyle also provided a brief review of his budget proposal and actions of the Joint Finance Committee. He noted that he submitted a balanced budget that included \$10 million for workforce development; he was disappointed that Joint Finance had eliminated that proposal. He noted that Joint Finance had eliminated \$30 million proposed in his budget for workforce and economic development programming, including funding for Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership. He also expressed concern that the legislature was headed down the wrong road (e.g., fewer dollars for education, cutting stem cell research) when we should be moving toward advanced manufacturing, science and efforts to build a flexible, well trained and skilled workforce that is prepared to succeed in a high end economy.

The Governor emphasized the need for all of us to work in a coordinated manner to get people trained, that Wisconsin is not going to turn its back on manufacturing and must take steps to grow the manufacturing sector. He pointed out that the biggest selling point for employers in deciding where to grow their businesses or move is the growing demand for high skilled workers. Wisconsin must have the skilled workers to grow its economy; it is important that we pull the pieces together to make that happen.

## **V. Annual Report to the Governor**

Linzmeyer briefly reviewed accomplishments of the CWI over the last year, focusing on recent CWI actions (e.g., grant programs, letters of support, formation of State Interagency Team, etc.) that developed as a result of CWI activity over that period. He noted that the CWI has challenged the status quo and has become a "learning organization" in efforts to ensure its actions are built on a foundation of knowledge. He also thanked staff for their assistance.

## **VI. Presentations**

### **A. Update on Carl Perkins Technical Education Act and Adult Education/Family Literacy Act**

Nancy Merrill (Wisconsin Technical College System Board) provided a brief overview and update on Carl Perkins. (Remarks on the Adult Education/Family Literacy Act were cut short with arrival of Governor Doyle.) Merrill noted that Wisconsin received \$25 million in Carl Perkins funds annually, with the funding divided among WTCS, Department of Public Instruction, and Governor's Work Based Learning Board. This represents the only dollars in the state dedicated to career education. President Bush has proposed eliminating the program in his last three budgets. However, it has strong Congressional support. Merrill further described the benefits to Wisconsin from the program, noting the number of WTSC students who receive services (25,000) and the fact that it serves the neediest students (e.g., academically and economically disadvantaged, people with disabilities, single parents, people with limited English proficiency). She also reviewed the most common services provided, noting that about 500 staff across the state are funded at least in part through Carl Perkins dollars.

Merrill also briefly reviewed the status of reauthorization and some of the key issues involved. These include concern about the merger of Tech Prep with the basic grant, which could result in less emphasis on tech prep education, and the reduction in administrative funds, which would reduce the state's ability to provide leadership and accountability, at the same time that accountability expectations are increasing.

B. Update on Budget Initiatives, TANF Reauthorization, and W-2

Gassman referred to the comments the Governor made concerning Joint Finance actions on the Governor's budget, noting that the Committee had also made significant cuts in or eliminated funding for Quality Care and other childcare initiatives, trial jobs for W-2 participants, Milwaukee W-2 office, safe-lift initiative to reduce back injuries among healthcare workers, and a variety of other workforce and economic development cuts. She noted that these actions present significant challenges.

Gassman also briefly reviewed the current status of TANF reauthorization, noting that it has been extended several times, that neither the House nor Senate has passed a bill, and that the future remains unclear.

C. Update on Workforce Investment Act Two Year State Plan and Review of WIA Two Year Local Plans

Connie Colussy (DWD/DWS) provided a brief update on WIA reauthorization, noting that the House has passed its version of reauthorization and the Senate has a committee passed version, but it is awaiting full Senate action. There are major differences between the two bills (e.g., consolidation versus separate funding streams, faith based organizations).

Colussy also reviewed key elements of the WIA state plan submitted to the United States Department of Labor at the end of May. She further explained that state staff are in the process of reviewing local WDB two year plans and that state negotiations with U.S. DOL on performance standards have been concluded.

Colussy referred members to the summary of WIA Summary of Local Plans, discussed the key themes represented in local plans, and provided examples for each. These included:

1. Demand driven workforce investment system. Activities focused on systems to work with businesses to determine their needs, industry/service strategies related to training, use of labor market/industry information to plan, introduction of innovative strategies, and developing systems/processes to work with high quality employers
2. Out of School Youth. The focus in some areas was on the need to do more of what they are doing now, while engaging in specialized activities (e.g., websites, youth corners in job centers).
3. Faith-Based/Community-Based organizations. Activities include efforts such as building a FCBO database, partnership development, and joint grant efforts.
4. Follow-up and Retention. This is a Wisconsin focus, rather than a U.S. DOL focus, to recognize the need to follow up with customers after they get a job to help them retain the job. Colussy noted that WDBs are very committed to this follow-up activity and are investing in computer tracking, staff training, reducing case loads, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.