

COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

CWI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Draft pending review and approval)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 17, 2006

(Teleconference)

Members Present: Paul Linzmeyer (Chair), Roberta Gassman, Dan Clancy, Lee Rasch, Dean Welch, Christopher Ruud

Members Absent: Joel Rogers, Doug Moquin, Mary Burke, Tina Koehn

CWI Staff Present: Sue Gleason, Sheryl Billups

Others Present: Diane Reynolds (DWD/DWS), Theresa Barch (WWDA), Robert Borremans (SW WDB)

Key Discussion Issues

I. Call to Order and Minutes

Paul Linzmeyer called the meeting and welcomed Dan Clancy to the Executive Committee. In the absence of a quorum initially, approval of minutes were deferred to the end of the meeting. At that time, Roberta Gassman moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

II. Committee Chairs Updates

A. **Co-Chairs Teleconference**

Christopher Ruud reported on discussion at the Co-Chairs teleconference held the previous week, noting that these were informal discussions to help the co-chairs coordinate activities. At the most recent meeting, the co-chairs discussed the purposes of the committees and how to develop additional "synergy" and quicker results.

In general discussion, others noted that an in-person meeting to discuss these issues might be useful. Roberta Gassman concurred with the need for a face-to-face meeting, suggesting that it would provide an opportunity to look at what has been accomplished and discuss the Governor's top priority -- development of the future workforce in a coordinated way.

B. **Workforce Systems Development Committee**

Ruud reported on the November 2 Committee meeting, noting it was among best the Committee has had. The Committee set priorities and assigned tasks and subcommittees in three areas: front-end seamless services, center (including infrastructure, coordination with required partners, and substantive changes in participation), and back-end/employer interactions. Ruud also noted the Committee's interest in being more involved in early stages of DWD's planning process for key policies/programs.

Sue Gleason commented that much of what the Committee discussed is included in the Joyce Foundation "Shifting Gears" proposal. Gassman indicated that her recent visit to the Racine County Workforce Development Center revealed many "best practices" that could be brought to scale across the state.

C. Workforce Strategies Committee

Dean Welch reported on the September 22 Committee meeting, explaining that the Committee reviewed its key accomplishments and discussed potential future activities. He noted that progress is being made in workforce information areas and targeted regional priorities (through GROW), but less work has been done on workforce preparation strategy area. Staff is developing a survey for Committee members to help identify priorities for further discussion in December. Lee Rasch observed that GROW activities are addressing a number of key CWI strategies and suggest a number of potential best practices that could be explored.

D. Dislocated Worker Committee-Advance Transformer Study

Sheryl Billups reported on the CWI-funded study by Southwest Technical College on workers dislocated from Advance Transformer in Platteville 10 years ago. She noted that the study report is in draft form; initial results demonstrate that dislocated workers who participated in one or two year training programs at the time of the dislocation did much better in terms of earnings, career advancement, quality of life, etc. than did those who did not go on for further training. Further analysis of data is expected before a final report is available.

Linzmeyer commented that while the value of longer-term training may not be new, it needs to be reinforced; the study results can tell a powerful story that needs to be shared. He and others noted that the study results could be incorporated into a package of materials for CWI planning and incorporated into a communication tool to demonstrate the value of training.

III. Review of 2006 CWI Activities and 2007 CWI Priorities

The committee briefly reviewed the chart of key accomplishments related to the Council's goals and key strategies. Gassman noted that the CWI has been in the mode of testing approaches and suggested that it may be time to move to a new phase of more prescription based on "best practices." This would require identifying lessons learned, picking a list of "best practices," and working to move the system as a whole in that direction.

Linzmeyer suggested, and there was general agreement, that a facilitator meets with the Executive Committee and a few others to develop a solid plan for the next three to four years. The planning effort could look at a variety of things and address both the strategic and tactical levels. He suggested that a small group (Linzmeyer, Rogers, Gassman, Gleason) should put an agenda together for a half day meeting. Among other suggestions or comments were the following:

- Need for better alignment between what the CWI as a whole does and what Committees do.
- Meeting with Governor
- Linking SIT and SAT more directly to CWI and building them up (especially SAT) to ensure they do something

Gassman indicated she would look into funding for a strategic planning session with a facilitator through the Secretary's discretionary funds. A meeting in mid January was suggested.

Gleason highlighted a few emerging issue that would need to be considered in the planning process. Among these were the Joyce Foundation "Shifting Gears" grant, the Governor's Jobs for the Future Initiative, more youth engagement, and potential

involvement in plans for "May is Manufacturing Month" in 2007. Gassman also noted that more needs to be done around technical assistance to regions and timely responses to employers as well.

The Committee also discussed operational issues, including the number of meetings, committees, and the appropriate focus for CWI meetings. Gleason noted that no schedule has been set for 2007; it was suggested that it would be helpful to set the first two dates as soon as possible, with other dates to follow as need is determined. In terms of roles, members noted that the committee structure could be helpful for coming up with agenda items for the full Council; the full Council could focus on oversight, with individual full council meetings focused on a specific committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.