

**Governor's Workforce Policy Advisory Board Meeting
February 18, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

10:12 a.m., Chairperson Nancy Kramer called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

List of Members in Attendance:

Gayle Agahi, Rich Berens, Michael Broidy, Suzanne Burke, Sam Chilia, John Connelly, Michael Deemer, Kent Dubbe, Bob Garbo, Michael Garvey, Pete Gerken, Matt Harris, Cindy Hilshiemer, Sharon Sobol Jordan, Mark Kovach, Nancy Kramer, Al Longstreth, Douglas Lumpkin, Terry Marovich, Ken Miller, Val Moeller, Andre Morrison, Deb Norris, Darcy Pajak, John Peterka, Carolyn Pizzuto, Barb Riley, John Roebel, Jack Schron, Baiju Shah, Dr. Shawn Webster, Becky Williams, Smokey Williams, Todd Wilson

List of Absent Members:

Dr. Roy Church, Deb Delisle, David Dhume, Eric Fingerhut, Greg Harris, Terri Hill, Mike Kovach, Bobbi Montgomery, Dominic Ozanne, Dr. Denise Reading, Mary Pat Salomone, Al Schonberg, Jennifer Simon, Dr. Robin White, Bruce Wyngaard

Welcome

Chairperson Kramer announced:

- Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher is running for the US Senate and stepped down as director of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). Mark Barbash was appointed interim director.
- Gov. Ted Strickland was called to a different meeting regarding energy issues, and will be unable to attend the Board meeting.

Introductions

Chairperson Kramer announced that the local Workforce Investment Board executive directors were present, and invited them to introduce themselves.

New Board members were introduced: Matthew R. Harris, Cindy Hilsheimer, Doug Lumpkin, Carolyn Pizzuto, John Roebel and Smokey Williams.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Darcy Pajak made a motion to approve the October 29, 2008 meeting minutes. Terry Marovich seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Presentation and Panel Discussion: Ohio Workforce Coalition (OWC)

Panel Participants: Robert Garber, Community Research Partners; Linda Stacy, Lucas County Improvement Corporation; Rich Markham, Polymer Ohio; Dave Aldstadt, Community Research Partners, and John Villers, Upper Valley Joint Vocational School.

Garber said:

- The Ohio Workforce Coalition (OWC) was formed in 2007. It is a cross-stakeholder network composed of business, labor, education and training, and human services organizations.
- The coalition's mission is to create a skilled workforce to grow Ohio's economy. The coalition's goals are to build the skills of adult workers, meet employer skill needs, and strengthen the workforce system.
- The national economic crisis has increased the trajectory of economic restructuring.
- A rapidly growing number of Ohio adults do not have the skills needed in the job market.
- Good jobs await workers with education and skills below a bachelor's degree. Half of Ohio jobs require 1-2 years of technical education and training.
- The OWC identified critical policy reforms to: improve training services for adult workers and employers, help adults access education and training, make better use of available state and federal resources, and focus on middle skills.
- Planks of the OWC's 2009 Public Policy Platform are: improve reemployment services for laid-off workers, reduce costs for adults pursuing education and training, expand the concept of "internships" to provide job experience for adults, and access available adult workforce development resources.
- The Rapid Response system is decentralized with unclear state oversight. Dislocated workers are underserved, and resources are unspent or re-directed.
- Desired outcomes for Rapid Response are: clear responsibilities, communication, expectations at both the state and local levels, and improved services for dislocated workers. The OWC recommends a flexible statewide pool of resources, established contracts with performance goals for local partners, and "evidence-based practices."
- Desired educational goals: make postsecondary education/training more affordable for workers, expanded financial aid to adults and for middle-skill

degrees/certificates, an extended tuition freeze, and established targets for spending more WIA funds on training.

Comments and questions:

- There is a need for training assistance for healthy businesses. Resources are needed to help move people “up the ladder,” so to create new opportunities at the entry level.
- Education affordability is an issue. Some people do not have the resources to upgrade.
- There is a mismatch between needed skills and what people are learning. Existing resources need to be used better.
- The college tuition freeze can not be extended forever.
- The OWC’s objectives do not appear to include the Board’s ideas and initiatives.
- Ohio loses a lot of workers in small amounts. We need to make sure that rural Ohio is not ignored. There are small companies laying off two-to-three people at a time.
- The vocational schools and career centers usually provide training to current workers. These institutions have experienced budget cuts.
- Training should be positioned for trends, such as the expansion of green jobs. Younger students (ages 18-24, GED students) should be exposed to green jobs.

Presentation by Mike Deemer, Executive Assistant to Gov. Strickland

Mike Deemer, Executive Assistant to Gov. Ted Strickland, spoke on the Governor’s behalf regarding the Board and its work.

Deemer said:

- The work the Board does is critical to meeting the workforce demands of the 21st century.
- Ohio needs to educate its students for the 21st century, especially in the areas of health care, energy and advanced manufacturing.
- Despite the economy, Ohio has still balanced its budget. \$3.2 billion was cut from the planned budget. The budget was balanced without raising taxes. The state still made key investments.

- President Barack Obama signed the federal stimulus package into law. The legislation provided \$8.3 billion to Ohio for critical services and key investments.
- The state's goal is to create 30,000 jobs in Ohio. \$146 million is provided in workforce development money.
- The state's second stimulus program will put the federal dollars to work quickly. Education is an integral part of this in the 21st century.
- The Governor's education and reform plans were announced in January. His plan has an "evidenced-based" approach. It will help students in the 21st century with learning skills, creativity, innovation, critical thinking skills and communication skills.
- The Governor's plan proposes expanded learning opportunities, including all-day kindergarten and expanding the school year by 20 days.
- The Governor proposes an academic Olympics.
- A Center of Creativity would help keep Ohio educators informed.
- The Governor proposes reforms in the way Ohio train its teachers. (A "Teach Ohio" Program).
- The Governor proposes applying teacher dismissal standards to current public employee standards.
- All students will take the ACT exam. There will also be submission of senior projects.
- The Governor's plan calls for increased school fiscal accountability for local school districts.
- College tuition will remain frozen through 2010. Tuition increases starting in 2010 will be limited to 3.5 percent.

The following comments and questions followed Deemer's presentation:

- Much of the stimulus funds will go to the Ohio Department of Transportation for infrastructure. Some of the funds will pass through to metropolitan planning organizations and some of the funds will go directly to the cities.
- There is \$145 million in workforce development activities for workforce investment. There is a growing industry for solar panels, but these solar panels are usually exported.

- The stimulus funds include unemployment compensation assistance.
- Jack Schron, Jr. questioned why the state was moving toward the ACT, and wanted to know when the state would move toward “middle jobs.” He also asked why Ohio does not have a credentialing program. Deemer noted that the ACT gives students a chance to think about college.
- John Peterka asked why Ohio received only \$8.2 billion in the federal stimulus package. Deemer said that the funds were allocated by formula, and that there were several different formulas being issued.
- Andre Morrison questioned whether the ACT would provide relevant information regarding work skills.

GWPAB Strategic Plan

The Board reviewed work on its strategic plan. The plan currently has six main goals:

- Market Ohio’s Workforce Development System;
- Attract Top Talent;
- Create Career Pathways;
- Invest in External Partnerships and Collaboration;
- Advance the Emerging Workforce, and
- Strengthen/Monitor Improvement Processes.

These six goals will be the “skeleton” upon which the Board’s work will be built.

Resolution 02-18-2009-01: WIA Annual Report for Program Year 2007

The WIA Annual Report for Program Year 2007 was referred to the Board by the Executive Committee.

Val Moeller made a motion to accept the resolution. Terry Marovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 02-18-2009-02: Incentive/Sanction/Expenditure Rate Recommendation

Chairperson Kramer said that the purpose of the resolution was to recommend the establishment of an incentive policy to recognize performance outcomes, a sanction policy to address performance outcomes that fail to meet required performance measures, and an expenditure rate policy to avoid rescission of WIA formula funds.

Darcy Pajak made a motion to accept the report. Bob Garbo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Val Moeller made a motion to adjourn. Terry Marovich seconded the motion. The Board adjourned at 12:05 p.m. for lunch and Committee breakouts.