

**NEW YORK CITY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
WORKFORCE POLICY COMMITTEE**

Meeting of May 4, 2006

**At the New York City Department of Small Business Services
110 William Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

William Bollbach
Richard Boyle
Charles Callahan
Rocco Damato
John Harloff

William Janowitz
Mark Leff
Joseph McDermott
John Mogulescu

Also Present:

Susan Arroyo
Dan Barasch
Rebecca Brown
Chris Cesarani
Brian Egan
Katy Gaul
Charles Houston
Angie Kamath

Lauren Kunis
David Margalit
Omer Mohammed
Cristina Shapiro
Marilyn Shea
Mia Simon
Florence Wong
Scott Zucker

Rocco Damato, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 2, 2006 Workforce Policy Committee were approved.

Introduction of Assistant Commissioner Cristina Shapiro

Marilyn Shea, Executive Director of the New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB), introduced Cristina Shapiro, newly appointed Assistant Commissioner for Business Solutions Hiring and Training at the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS). Ms. Shapiro will make a presentation on the work and strategy of the Hiring and Training unit at a future Committee meeting.

Individual Training Account Policy Recommendation

Katy Gaul, Executive Director of Workforce1 Training for the Department of Small Business Services, presented a recommendation to modify the definition of "placement," one of the performance measures upon which training providers receiving Individual Training Account (ITA) vouchers are evaluated. Under the existing policy, a training provider must place at least 50% of customers entering its training course into employment in order for that provider to remain eligible to receive ITA vouchers. Ms. Gaul presented a recommendation that the placement criterion be modified such that it specifically denote placement into "employment related to the occupation and skills taught in training."

Following Ms. Gaul's presentation, the Committee discussed the implications of requiring training providers to demonstrate training-related placements. Several Committee members raised concerns about how "training-related placements" would be defined and asked SBS to

conduct further research. The Committee voted to table a resolution to modify the placement criterion until that research was completed.

Dislocated Worker Eligibility Criteria Recommendations

Scott Zucker, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce1 System Management at SBS, presented to the Committee recommendations to amend the current definitions for determining eligibility for Dislocated Worker services. Mr. Zucker noted that the local eligibility policies currently in place are more stringent than federal guidance require. He suggested that the proposed amendments would enable the Workforce1 Career Center System to serve greater numbers of Dislocated Workers and to correctly account for many Dislocated Workers who were already being served through the Adult funding stream. Mr. Zucker presented a paper recommending the following definitions:

- Limited re-employment opportunity shall be expanded to include those individuals who have a demonstrated workforce attachment but require skill upgrades to obtain a job with advancement potential or who require job search assistance. The individual need not be in a declining occupation as previously required.
- The duration needed for a customer to demonstrate workforce attachment shall be six months.
- A substantial layoff shall be one in which an employer eliminates 25% of its staff, or 50 employees, whichever is lower.

The Committee approved a resolution to accept the revised eligibility criteria for Dislocated Workers as described in the paper.

Operator Consortium and NYS Department of Labor Division of Employment Services (ES)-WIA Integration Update

Marilyn Shea updated the Committee on efforts to integrate Wagner-Peyser and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title 1-B customers and services at the three Workforce1 Career Centers – the Bronx, Queens, and Upper Manhattan – where those program staff are co-located. Senior staff from ES, the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and the City University of New York (CUNY) met for a third working session facilitated by Greg Newton, to continue to identify the goals of service integration and to plan next steps toward realizing integration at the three co-located Career Centers.

Ms. Shea reported that currently, the joint WIA-ES workgroups are taking a systematic approach to rationalizing an integrated customer flow and defining how the integrated Career Centers will be managed. The Operator Consortium will review the workgroup's products and report back to the Committee on the progress of the integration initiative. Ms. Shea also reported that the WIB is developing a Request for Proposals to engage a process consultant to assist the Consortium in this endeavor.

Ms. Shea also reported that effective July 1, 2006, the State is mandating that Wagner-Peyser and WIA services be integrated at all locations and that standalone Employment Services offices become affiliate Workforce1 Career Centers. Because of the size and complexity of New York City's workforce investment system, Ms. Shea has informed NYDOL that she does not anticipate that the New York City will be able to meet the integration milestones within the State's proposed timeframes.

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned.