

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

Meeting of August 19, 2010

At the New York City Department of Small Business Services
110 William Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10038

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Bill Abramson, Horace Barker, Ken Dirks (by phone), Charles Callahan, Marc Leff, Joe McDermott, and John Mogulescu

Also Present:

David Berman, Marianne Vernetson, Lea Kilraine, Barbara Ulrich, Matt White, Chris Cesarani, Katie Schwartz, Florence Wong, David Fischer, Phil Weinberg, Deldreana Peterkin, Cristina Shapiro, Sara Schlossberg, Cesar Cardenas. Horace Barker, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting of the Workforce Policy Committee (WPC) were approved.

Horace Barker welcomed the Committee for the first time as the Workforce Policy Committee Chair and provided members with an overview of the meeting agenda.

On the Job Training: Issue Background and Resolution

To present the first agenda item, Horace Barker introduced Cesar Cardenas. Mr. Cardenas detailed the efforts of the NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB) staff and NYC Business Solutions to structure a New York City policy for On-the-Job Training (OJT) programs. Adoption of a local policy was required as part of a proposal submitted by the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) to participate in an OJT National Emergency Grant initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The proposed OJT initiative would provide participating employers reimbursement for the extraordinary cost of new-hire training at a rate up to 90% of the OJT participant's wage rate, based on the employer's business size and the OJT participant's skills gap. SBS Assistant Commissioner Cristina Shapiro and Sara Schlossberg, Executive Director of NYC Business Solutions Training outlined New York City's proposal, which calls for \$880,000 to engage in OJT contracts with New York City employers. These funds, to be administered by NYC Business Solutions and building on the existing structure of the NYC Business Solutions Training Funds, would support upwards of 500 new hires across up to 90 New York City businesses. Mr. Barker proposed a local policy setting forth programmatic assurances and contracting, and monitoring and reimbursement criteria, which the Committee approved.

WIB Strategic Plan Review and Role of the WPC

To present the second agenda item, Mr. Barker introduced David Fischer. Mr. Fischer led a discussion with the Committee Members regarding the 2011-2013 WIB Strategic Plan, reviewing the process undertaken during a series of summer listening sessions organized by WIB staff for Members. Mr. Cardenas contributed to the discussion by outlining an enhanced advocacy role for the Committee, including a review of workforce-related federal legislation that Committee Members could undertake advocating for. Several Members responded with concerns regarding both the substance of the plan and a need for concrete and actionable steps to carry it out. Members discussed doing so by having WIB staff generate a companion document in the form of an annual action plan specifying affirmative steps to take to further each strategic priority. The conversation carried over into time allotted for open Member discussion.

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned.