



QUARTERLY MEETING

10 William Street, 4th Floor
New York, New York

Thursday, December 10, 2009

8:30 – 10:30 AM

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Bill Abramson	Reg Foster	Robert Reffkin
Nina Aledort	Ed Goldberg	Stuart Saft
Horace Barker	Sarah Holloway	Deidre Scott
Les Bluestone	Kathy Kearns	Maria Serrano
Marion Boykin	Rae Linefsky	Tokumbo Shobowale
Richard Boyle	John Mogulescu	Robert Walsh
Rocco Damato	Jeanne Mullgrav	
Ken Dircks	Tom Pendleton	
Robert Doar	Michelle Pinnock	
Arnold Dorin	Robert Purga	

Guests:

Tracie Abbott	Cedric Gaddy	Daphne Montanez
Miguel Almodovar	Katy Gaul	Fay Morales
Mary Batch	Alex Gomez	Marty Oesterreich
David Berman	Shanna Gumaer	Deldreana Peterkin
Kathleen Brady	Lisa Hancock	Faisal Rahman
Deborah Buyer	Susan Haskell	Brenda Russell
Tim Cantrell	Bruce Herman	Andrea Schauder
Rebecca Brown Cesarani	Angie Kamath	Ray Singleton
Chris Cesarani	Lea Kilraine	Jennifer Steinberg
May Chin	Marco Lowe	Angela Tolosa
Joe Christo	Suzanne Lynn	Barbara Ulrich
Tara Colton	Melinda Mulawka Mack	Phil Weinberg
Diane Edelson	Jeffery Martin	Matt White
David Fischer	Stephanie Martinez	Kate Yager
Richard Fish	Robin McClary	Fei Yanet

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 9th meeting of the New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB) were approved.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Saft welcomed the Board. He began the meeting by announcing the appointments of two new board members and noted that their biographies were located in the board book. These members included:

- Les Bluestone, Partner of Blue Sea Development Company
- Robert Reffkin, Vice President of Goldman Sachs

Next, Mr. Saft announced that after three and a half years of service to the Workforce Investment Board, Melinda Mulawka Mack, the WIB's Sr. Vice President, has announced that she will be leaving the WIB effective December 31st.

Mr. Saft noted that Ms. Mack was an integral part of the WIB's success during her tenure, and she will be greatly missed. Mr. Saft thanked Ms. Mack for her dedicated service and presented her with a plaque on behalf of the Board.

Youth Council Update

Mr. Saft directed the Board to the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Youth Board/Youth Council update memo in the Board book.

State Update

Commissioner Robert Walsh introduced Bruce Herman, the Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development at the New State Department of Labor. Mr. Herman oversees regional DOL offices that work in partnership with county and local workforce agencies to operate One-Stop Centers. In addition to his responsibilities within the department, Mr. Herman is an agency and state representative on numerous multi-state initiatives.

Following the introduction, Bruce Herman provided insight on State activities, including:

- Workforce Investment Act formula grants for adults, dislocated workers and youth
- Workforce funding strategies for building skills in New York State (BUSINYS)
- Layoff Aversion

President's Update

In a presentation entitled, *Reflecting Back, Looking Forward: Workforce Priorities for 2010*, Phil Weinberg, President of the NYC Workforce Investment Board, discussed with the Board four areas of focus for the City's workforce system in 2010:

1. Innovation and partnerships led by the WIB. To illustrate the role of the WIB in driving new ventures in 2010, Mr. Weinberg described *Scholars at Work*, a new pilot program led by the WIB in partnership with the Workforce1 Career Centers and the City's Career and Technical Education Schools, with the goal of better aligning youth and adult workforce systems in NYC
2. A focus on career pathways and job quality for the adult workforce system, with an emphasis on higher wages and increased career advancement opportunities
3. Increased investment in Out-of-School Youth (OSY), reflected by the stimulus funding, the shifting of In-School Youth funds, and the upcoming OSY RFP
4. Increased engagement opportunities for WIB members, with the roll-out of a new process for members to propose policy initiatives through the WIB's Policy Committee.

Keynote Presentation

Next, Mr. Saft introduced two guest speakers – John Colbert and John Twomey. He explained that Mr. Colbert is with Capitol Hill Partners, a governmental relations firm dedicated to solely assisting nonprofit and low income programs, with a specific focus on workforce programming, before Congress and the Executive Branch. He is highly engaged in the effort to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the annual appropriations for the WIA system.

Mr. Twomey has been Executive Director of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) since January 1987. In this position John is an advocate for New York's workforce development community. From 1976 through 1986, Mr. Twomey administered youth and adult employment programs for a community based organization in the Bronx, New York City. He is the Past President of the National Workforce Association and also currently serves as President of USAWorks!

Following these introductions, Mr. Colbert and Mr. Twomey provided insight into what the recent elections in D.C. and in Albany mean for New York City's workforce system. Most notably Mr. Colbert detailed:

- The future of the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization
- The focus of the new stimulus jobs package, and workforce funding opportunities as part of the package
- The likely effect on New York City of changes in U.S. Department of Labor leadership and in the U.S. Congress

Mr. Twomey reviewed with the Board:

- The context of literacy levels and how they impact workforce issues in New York City
- The Federal landscape of Workforce Investment Act reauthorization

Following the presentation, Mr. Saft facilitated a discussion between Mr. Colbert, Mr. Twomey and the members.

Next, Mr. Saft announced that at the last Workforce Policy Committee, the Committee passed a resolution approving the WIB's WIA position paper. Mr. Saft directed Board members to the resolution in the meeting materials. The Board unanimously endorsed the resolution approving the position paper.

Workforce Investment Act Advocacy Strategy

WIB member Ken Dircks, and Stephanie Martinez, Policy Director of the WIB, presented the WIB's position paper on WIA reauthorization, articulating the WIB's eight WIA recommendations and describing the Workforce Policy Committee's involvement in crafting the recommendations. Mr. Dircks encouraged members to remain vigilant in advocating the City's position to policy-makers as WIA reauthorization is considered.

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned. Mr. Saft announced that the next quarterly WIB meeting would be on March 10, 2010.