



QUARTERLY MEETING

At the New York City Department of Small Business Services
110 William Street, 4th Floor Board Room

March 8, 2006

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

William Abramson	Ester Fuchs	John Mogulescu
Ken Adams	Mildred Garcia	Jeanne Mullgrav
Robert Battista	John Harloff	George Ntim
William Bollbach	Ellen Howard-Cooper	Michelle Pinnock
Richard Boyle	Chuck Hunt	Robert Purga
Michele Cahill	William Janowitz	Stuart Saft
Charles Callahan III	Deborah King	Audrey Slade
Louis Coletti	Mark Leff for Pam Brier	Carole Sobin
Rocco Damato	Harry Lerner	Robert Walsh
Rex Davidson	Joseph McDermott	
Reg Foster	Kathleen McGovern	

Guests:

Miguel Almodovar	Andrew Kane	Jeremy Reiss
Susan Arroyo	Philippa Karteron	Carolyn Robinson
Dan Barasch	Megan Keenan	Elyse Rudolph
Rebecca Brown	Lauren Kunis	Jean Seltzer
Chris Cesarani	Lisa Laudico	Maria Serrano
Henry Daisy	Lisa Lin Ying	Marilyn Shea
Ethan Davidson	Suzanne Lynn	Mia Simon
Suri Duitch	David Margalit	Anthony Tassi
Brian Egan	Robin McClary	Lisa Van Brackle
Linda Foehr	Ismail Mohamed	Sandra Vazquez
Katy Gaul	Alicia Noel	Blake Walters
Matthew Goldstein	Marty Oesterreich	Florence Wong
Susan Haskell	Michael Ognibene	
Everett Hughes	Deldreana Peterkin	

Stuart Saft, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Saft announced that two new members had been appointed to the New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB), Michele Cahill and Louis Coletti. Ms. Cahill is the Senior Counselor to the Chancellor for Education Policy at the New York City Department of Education. Mr. Coletti is the President and CEO of the Building Trades

Employers' Association of New York City, which represents 1,500 construction companies doing business in the City. The Board welcomed the new members.

Mr. Saft announced that Susan Arroyo had joined the WIB staff as the Manager of Workforce Policy. Ms. Arroyo was formerly the Executive Director of the Staten Island Workforce1 Career Center. In her new role, she will work with the WIB's Workforce Policy Committee and the New York City Operator Consortium.

Mr. Saft thanked WIB member Chuck Hunt of the New York State Restaurant Association for his support with the International Restaurant and Foodservice Show, which took place March 5–7, 2006. Mr. Hunt had arranged for an exhibition booth and VIP passes for staff from the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). The staff met with representatives of 600 restaurants and food service businesses and introduced them to the City's hiring and training services for employers.

Mr. Saft reported that the New York State Department of Labor had issued planning estimates for Program Year 2006 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formula funding. It was estimated that New York City would take an overall cut of 14%, or \$13.8 million across the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth funding streams. Additionally, Mr. Saft reported that the President had released his Fiscal Year 2007 budget proposal, which would cut workforce programs by 15%, or \$680 million, nationally. Mr. Saft stated that this could translate to a loss of \$22 million for New York State and \$12.5 million for New York City. Further, Mr. Saft noted that the President's proposal could dismantle One-Stop Centers, customized training programs and local Workforce Investment Boards. Mr. Saft encouraged all interested WIB members to write to New York City's congressional delegation in Washington to oppose the President's proposal and to restore full funding for the existing workforce development system.

Youth Council Update

Reg Foster, Chair of the Youth Council, reported that the Youth Board and Youth Council met on March 2, 2006. The primary focus of the meeting was a discussion of the President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget proposal, which calls for the elimination of the Community Services Block Grant program, a significant source of federal funding for education, youth leadership, economic development, employment, senior services, housing assistance, literacy and immigrant support activities. It was decided at the meeting that the Chairs of the Youth Board and Youth Council would draft letters to Congress urging them to reject the President's proposal.

Workforce Policy Committee Update

Rocco Damato, Chair of the Workforce Policy Committee, stated that the Committee met on March 2, 2006. He reported that WIB Executive Director Marilyn Shea and WIB member John Harloff updated the Committee on ongoing efforts to integrate WIA and Wagner-Peyser services at the Workforce1 Career Centers in the Bronx, Upper Manhattan and Queens. The Committee was also updated on a recent meeting of the Operator Consortium, which had begun to shift its role toward day-to-day oversight of Career Center operations.

The Committee heard recommendations from Committee member Bill Janowitz of VESID (Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities) on how the Workforce1 Career Center system can better serve customers with disabilities. Mr. Janowitz leads a workgroup focused on that issue. The Committee endorsed the

recommendations and agreed to forward them to the Operator Consortium for implementation.

Lastly, David Margalit, SBS Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development, provided the Committee with an overview of his unit's workforce development strategy for 2006. His presentation included updates on new technologies and new services that would help place a record number of jobseekers into employment in the coming year.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Kathleen McGovern, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 12, 2006. The Committee was briefly updated on the status of several strategic initiatives, including the Board's healthcare sector strategy and the development of a workforce information system. Following these updates, the Committee members identified additional policy areas they wished to study in 2006, including: preparing New York City's workforce for global competition; promoting the availability of English language learning opportunities; and researching work re-entry programs for ex-offenders. It was suggested that these topics could form the basis of new workgroups to be led by interested WIB members.

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein's Presentation

Mr. Saft introduced guest speaker Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor of the City University of New York (CUNY). Chancellor Goldstein's remarks focused on CUNY's experience in helping New Yorkers achieve their educational and professional goals. He emphasized the need for a stronger link between education and workforce development, a sentiment with which the Board agreed. Following his presentation, Chancellor Goldstein and the Board agreed to work toward developing a stronger relationship between CUNY and the City's workforce development system.

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned. Mr. Saft announced that the next quarterly WIB meeting would be on June 14, 2006.