

**Workforce Investment Board  
West Central Workforce Investment Area  
The New Englander Banquet Center  
New Castle, PA  
February 9, 2011**

**Minutes**

**Members present were:** Marcia Anderson, Marc Buskirk, Joseph Clavelli, Gordon Davis, Gary Gay, Sam Giannetti, Gary Grant, Jack Janoso, Rachel Martin, Mark McNulty, Linda Nitch, Angela Palumbo, Sally Pinson, Roberta Taylor, Andrew Tommelleo and Dominic Vadala

**Members absent were:** Jay Bruce, Neil Chessin, Gayle Davis, Bruce Denniston, Brian Durniok, David Greer, Ken Jasper, Rex Knisley, Spike Mancuso, Jay Martin, Therese McShea, Kim Miller, Robert Powell, Larry Reichard, Tom Scott, Frank Telesz, Mark Wasser and Anthony Zucco

**Staff present were:** Stephanie Boofer, Eileen Borrelli, Gregg Dogan, Jackie Haggerty, Eric Karmecy, Rebecca Moder, Deb Paladino and Michelle Sallmen

**Others present were:** Commissioner Ken Ammann, Attorney Ray Bogaty, Alan Baldarelli, Chris Anderson and Kyle McCroskey

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark McNulty at 6:03 p.m. Roll was taken and the meeting commenced.

*A moment of silence was observed in honor of WIB member L. DeWitt Boosel who passed away in January.*

**A motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting was made by Sally Pinson, seconded by Andrew Tommelleo and passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- No public comments

**YOUTH ROBOTICS PRESENTATION**

- Alan Baldarelli, Superintendent of West Middlesex Area School District attended the WIB meeting with teacher Chris Anderson and student Kyle McCroskey for a presentation of their robot that competed in the BEST Robotics competition at Grove City College. A team of 12 students from West Middlesex competed at Grove City College and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place which qualified them for regional competition in Auburn, Alabama. In November the team from West Middlesex went to Auburn to compete in the regional competition which demonstrated their problem solving and engineering skills. At Auburn the team placed 40<sup>th</sup> out of 60 teams.
- Rachel Martin addressed the board regarding the RFP for RCEP funds. Twenty projects were funded in various amounts, the maximum being \$3,000. These projects included Keys-to-Work, Model Schools Conference trip, Business Week, Summer Rocket Camp, Engineering is Elementary, Outdoor Learning Lab and Camp Invention.

- Andy Tommelleo thanked the board for funding attendance to the Model Schools Conference. He also advised the board that Lawrence County Career & Technical Center is partnering with Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, Trumbull Career and Technical Center and Choffin Career Center in Ohio as well as the Mercer County Career Center to be showcased on WYTV and WKBN for Career and Tech Week mirroring the OH-PENN Interstate Region.

## **MANAGEMENT REPORT**

- Finance Report** – Mr. Dogan referred to the green section of the packet. Page one reflects expenses accrued through January 31, 2011.

Page two reflects WIA Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker funds. As of January 31, 2011, WIA Adult training funds were budgeted at \$216,337 and \$165,566 had been expensed/obligated, WIA Youth was budgeted at \$424,000 and \$400,914 had been expensed or obligated and WIA Dislocated Worker was budgeted at \$282,443 and \$267,694 had been expensed or obligated.

Page three reflects ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker funds. ARRA Adult was budgeted at \$130,500 and had expensed/obligated \$134,389, ARRA Youth was budgeted at \$2,000 and had obligated/expensed \$1,910 and ARRA Dislocated Worker was budgeted at \$263,000 and had obligated/expensed \$257,870. Mr. Dogan stated the ARRA grants listed need to be expended by June 30, 2011.

Page four reflects the expenditures for the Mercer and Lawrence County CareerLinks.

Mr. Dogan also stated that the WIB was one of three PA WIBs to be selected by the U.S. Department of Labor for an audit of ARRA funds. This audit was specific to the ARRA youth funds. An electronic audit consisting of approximately 100 questions was completed and the results are pending.

**A motion to approve the Finance Report as presented was made by Gordon Davis, seconded by Rachel Martin and passed unanimously.**

- WIA 10% Plan Addendum** – Mr. Dogan stated that last summer TANF/ECF funds were made available by the state. These funds were only able to be used for wages of participants. WIA 10% funds were also made available to supplement fringe benefit expenses for the program, which ended September 30, 2010. At the end of the program a balance remained of \$55,000.

**Mr. Dogan requested an action by the WIB to approve the use of the remaining 10% funds for Individual Training Accounts, On the Job Training and Work Experience as appropriate.**

**A motion to approve the use of the funds as such was made by Linda Nitch, seconded by Sally Pinson and passed unanimously.**

- Training Report (July – Dec. 2010)** – Mr. Dogan stated the report contains information on Individual Training Accounts and On the Job Training. The first part of the report lists the number of

students in training, by program, at each training provider. The second part of the report lists On the Job Training providers and the number of participants currently employed by these providers.

*Linda Nitch asked if there is a correlation between the number of participants in a particular training program and the likelihood of those people finding jobs. Angela Palumbo answered that the training is in high priority occupations and that the likelihood of finding employment is high. Mr. Giannetti added that there is approximately a 75% placement rate after completion of a training program across all funding titles.*

- **WIA Performance Summary – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter PY 10** – Mr. Dogan stated that West Central is currently meeting or exceeding all of the goals but two, those being Youth Placement and Youth Literacy/Numeracy. There are currently no participants in either of these programs and this is the reason for not meeting those goals. Mr. Giannetti also added that these figures do not include participants from the Trade Act or OVR.
  
- **Equal Opportunity and ADA Accessibility Compliance** – Mr. Dogan stated that in November the WIB as well as the Mercer and Lawrence County CareerLinks were selected for an ADA / EO Compliance Review. A letter stating that all sites passed the review was included for informational purposes.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Futures Committee** –Mr. Giannetti informed the board that the Futures Committee met on January 27, 2011 and the following items were discussed:
  - Future skills that will be needed by employees in the next decade.
  - Assessment of employment skills commonly lacked in the area.
  - Interaction with schools to promote high priority occupations.
  - To make the WIB members more aware of the projects and initiatives we are involved in within the community in order to assist them in being ambassadors for the WIB in their interactions with the community.
  
- **Welfare Coordinating Committee** –In Mark Wasser’s absence Mr. Giannetti stated that the WIB had made an application to the DPW for additional TANF funds in the amount of \$300,000 but were only approved for \$19,000. Mr. Dogan spoke with the DPW in November and after some recalculation on their part, an additional \$190,000 was requested. The DPW has not responded as of yet.

## YOUTH COUNCIL

- **New Appointments** – Mr. Dogan advised the board that at their last meeting the Governing Board had approved two new members to the Youth Council. The Workforce Investment Act states that Chief Elected Officials and the Workforce Investment Board have concurrence on Youth Council members. The approved members are Ralph Blundo, Assistant Principal New Castle Junior/Senior High School and Mike Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal Sharon Middle/High School.

**A motion to approve Ralph Blundo and Mike Fitzgerald as new Youth Council members was made by Dominic Vadala, seconded by Jack Janoso and passed unanimously.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Oh\*Penn Interstate Region Update*** – Mr. Giannetti informed the board that the first annual Wal-Mart Foundation report has been submitted. An executive summary was provided to the WIB members outlining the goals of the Competitiveness Council.
- CareerLink®*** - Both Eileen Borrelli and Angela Palumbo passed out information reflecting activity at the Lawrence and Mercer County CareerLinks. The unemployment rate from December 2010 for Lawrence County was 9.4% and Mercer County was 10.1%. Ms. Palumbo advised the board that there is a Rapid Response being done at Reznor and Reynolds Alcoa in Mercer County.
- Eric Karmecy informed the board of the Industry Needs You project which is an outreach campaign promoted by the manufacturing industry partnership. Currently we are conducting a video contest consisting of 16 teams from 10 school districts. The students will produce an innovative 3-5 minute video showcasing job functions, required skills and training opportunities for their assigned manufacturer. The submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges as well as thru online voting from other students. Prizes will be awarded.

Mr. Karmecy also informed the board of the upcoming Business and Industrial Career Fair to be held on April 27 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Attorney Bogaty informed the board of the ongoing situation with the NWPACC contract. Attorney Bogaty has been in contact with Mr. Dick Miller and Mr. Doug Robbins from NWPACC. There have been efforts made to reach an amicable resolution, but at this point the matter has not been resolved and Attorney Bogaty will update the board at the next meeting.

*Gordon Davis asked if the outcome of this situation could jeopardize programs in other areas. Attorney Bogaty responded that this situation would not have any impact on any programs.*

**Adjournment – A motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. was made by Sally Pinson, seconded by Gary Grant and passed unanimously.**