



Illinois Workforce Investment Board

Pat Quinn, Governor

Warren Ribley, Chair

**Career Link workNet Center
207 East Hamilton Road
Bloomington, IL 61704
September 16, 2010**

IWIB Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present: Warren Ribley, Tom Ashby, Robert F. Kilbury, Earl "Sandy" Moldovan, Ronn Morehead, Barbara Oilschlager, Teresa Payne, Michael Perry, John Rico.

Present by Proxy: Charles D. Johnson (Jennifer Morrell), Geoffrey S. Obrzut (Lavon Nelson), Maureen O'Donnell (Letitia Dominici).

Absent: Rosiland Bruce, Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Grace Hong-Duffin, Dr. Chris Koch, Janet Payne, Honorable Sandy Pihos, Tom Prinske, Donald Sevener, Catherine Shannon, Eloy Salazar, Larry Walsh, Diane Williams.

Opening Remarks

Director Warren Ribley welcomed members and guests and extended a thank you to Gary Cicciu and his staff for hosting the meeting. Although they were not able to attend, Director Ribley acknowledged two new members, Grace Hong-Duffin, Acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, and Donald Sevener, Interim Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education replacing Carol Adams and Judy Erwin, respectively. He noted additional public sector members are being reviewed and is hopeful they will be approved in time for the December meeting. Director Ribley welcomed Lonnie Doan of First Farm Credit, a candidate that will once approved, represent the north central region of the state and is involved in farm credit system as a lender with a long history in banking. Director Ribley also welcomed Donald R. DeDobbelaere of John Deere and Company.

Director Ribley turned the meeting over to DCEO staff Jason Tyszko, who focuses on workforce and education policy, to provide an update on several grant opportunities the agency is actively pursuing. The first grant was made available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. DCEO partnered with the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council to submit for a \$150,000 planning grant in order to conduct a baseline analysis of the healthcare workforce that will target three regions in Illinois (northern, central, and southern). As part of the grant submission it was proposed that if funding was awarded the IWIB's Healthcare Taskforce will be reinstated to serve as the advisory body for the grant.

The second grant opportunity was with the U.S. Department of Labor for a Workforce Data Quality Initiative grant. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in partnership with the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) submitted an application for a \$1 million grant to build a workforce longitudinal data system that complements the existing work underway with the Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). Through this grant the State hopes to build a comprehensive federated data system that builds off of the SLDS and includes WIA Title I, employment security, trade adjustment assistance, UI wage records, and UI benefits, but also includes social service data such as vocational rehabilitation, TANF, registered apprenticeship, and state licensing and certification data. In addition, the grant proposed conducting a baseline P-20 pipeline analysis starting with the healthcare sector and then expanding to other critical sectors the IWIB has previously determined. During the development of the application DCEO and IDES received tremendous support from the education agencies including the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

In conclusion, Jason stated that by the next meeting decisions should be made regarding both grant programs referenced above.

Approval of June 24, 2010 Minutes

Director Ribley requested a motion to approve the June 24, 2010 meeting minutes. Barbara Oilschlager motioned and Earl "Sandy" Moldovan seconded. The motion passed.

P-20 Council Overview

John Rico provided an update on the P-20 Council. He began by thanking Jason Tyszko for being instrumental in the various meetings particularly for his efforts in advancing the State's Race to the Top proposal. John stated that four committees were developed with the purpose of being seamless between pre-school to 20th grade as many obstacles must be overcome in order to follow an individual through this entire timeframe. John identified the four committees that were formed under the P-20 Council: 1) Assessments and Data; 2) Teacher Quality; 3) Family, Youth and Community Engagement; and 4) School, College and Career Readiness. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2010 and John encouraged anyone who is interested in learning more about the P-20 Council to attend and join a committee. Director Ribley noted that it is important to interact with the P-20 Council and have joint representatives such as John and others to continue to talk about and coordinate career readiness over the span of the P-20 pipeline and into adult education.

Race to the Top Update

Director Ribley informed the members that Illinois' Race to the Top application was not approved for funding; however, the amount of energy and synergy that has developed over the course of the Race to the Top application and a consensus among the partners is the momentum that needs to be carried forward. He noted Jason Tyszko would be discussing the next steps and ways to continue to fund the effort and support the goals of the application.

Jason addressed the members and emphasized that the Race to the Top application remains Illinois' reform agenda. With regard to the Race to the Top application, Illinois was ranked fifth in the first round and was ranked fifteenth in the second round; however, only the top ten finalists were chosen for funding in the second round. Further guidance from the U.S. Department of Education is being sought with regard to the difference in scoring between the two rounds. Jason mentioned that three states, Colorado, Louisiana, and Illinois were recognized as having strong proposals and all three states are currently in negotiations with several national foundations to discuss potential funding opportunities for components of the applications. It is believed that within the next month Illinois should have a better understanding of the support that may be provided by these foundations.

In addition to this information, Illinois is reviewing how to better align and leverage private and public resources to advance some of the reform efforts proposed in the STEM Reform Agenda as discussed at the last IWIB meeting. He stated that the State is reviewing how to realign State and federal resources including Perkins funding and school improvement grants, and exploring the extent that WIA might be able to support the education career readiness efforts outlined in the application. The State will also be looking to apply for other competitive funding opportunities that can help advance the STEM Reform Agenda. Finally, he mentioned a meeting will be held on September 24, 2010 in Chicago with public and private partners that assisted in developing the STEM Reform Agenda to discuss next steps in developing and supporting STEM Programs of Study and public-private STEM Learning Exchanges. In the meantime, the State will continue to leverage the investments being made with the SLDS.

Task Force Updates

- State Energy Sector Partnership
David Gallagher provided an update on the current status of the State Energy Sector Partnership's (SESP) efforts. David stated the partnership met September 14, 2010 via video conference between Chicago and Springfield. The meeting priority focused on the status of the federal grant with the seven projects that are in the initial stages. He also noted the grant paperwork is being processed through DCEO's procedures. In addition, he reminded the board members that a Request for Assistance is now being reviewed and finalized for a Statewide Energy Efficiency Consortium, a workgroup that will work with the local programs to share best practices as well as develop opportunities for other energy efficiency workforce development programs throughout the state. David mentioned that the SESP reviewed a draft task force report and he is implementing the final revisions. The SESP Final Report will be presented at the IWIB meeting held in December. Lastly the Task Force discussed projects and action plans that may be forthcoming which includes labor market

information in specific emerging efficiency occupations and skill standards for the energy sector and making recommendations as needed. The next meeting is expected to be held on December 14, 2010.

From the update came discussion from the members with regard to the possibilities for advancing an energy learning exchange and what opportunities are currently in place that could support these energy learning exchanges.

Also, Ronn Morehead voiced that failure to act expeditiously to endorse a final report might affect the ability of the state to advance several SESP projects in a timely manner. Ronn made a motion that the report be circulated, reviewed, and voted upon prior to the December IWIB meeting. Following a brief discussion to determine whether or not the IWIB could vote and approve a report prior to the task force approving, it was determined that DCEO would investigate the possibility of holding the meeting open and conducting a vote prior to the December IWIB meeting. A motion was made to distribute the final SESP report to members after the SESP Task Force members approved. Members would then be given 14 days to review and comment on the final report at which time DCEO would notify IWIB members if a vote could be held either by email or phone. The meeting would be closed after the vote. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

(Note: After further consultation and review of applicable laws and procedures, it was recommended that the Illinois Workforce Investment Board postpone an official vote until the December meeting.)

- Agriculture Task Force

Mike Baker provided a brief overview of the activities of the Agriculture Task Force since the last meeting. Mike stated that since the last report to the IWIB the Task Force has made a tremendous amount of progress. He reminded the IWIB that the Task Force had five major areas of concern: local foods, P-20 Pipeline, marketing/career awareness, public and private innovation, and entrepreneurship/innovation.

Mike stated that DCEO has invested \$440,000 with ICCB for planning and Phase I implementation of local foods projects at six community colleges as detailed in the handout provided. The Task Force has identified four P-20 Pipeline state project team goals including: 1) develop a comprehensive Illinois P-20 model; 2) develop P-20 Agriculture pipeline measures that address quality indicators used in agriculture education; 3) conduct pilot study; and 4) incorporate relevant career and education information into the Illinois workNet Agriculture portal, other state agencies, and industry portal sites.

Mike reported that the task force decided to pursue a career awareness challenge with local student organizations in the agriculture sector. Mike briefly explained the campaign challenge, as it was outlined in the presentation material, as a way develop a multimedia communications program to promote careers in agriculture to elementary school, middle school and/or high school students in Illinois and present the proposed program to a state review team coordinated though the Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education in Agriculture Program. The lead partner in the challenge is the FFA chapters but intended to extend to

reach students and faculty that would otherwise remain unaware the various agricultural careers.

The fourth area of focus for the Task Force is public and private innovation. The Task Force has been able to leverage the Illinois Innovation Talent Challenges to include agriculture as one of this year's challenges. The agriculture challenge is anticipated to be based on biomaterials or local foods. The challenge provides students with career awareness through examining real-world problems from multiple disciplines and networking with outside professional. Per the request of Director Ribley, Jason Tyszko briefly informed the membership of the background of Illinois Innovation Talent and how it creates a new work-based learning experience for students while finding innovative ways to engage industry on real-world problem-based learning.

Mike Baker continued to update the IWIB on the Task Force's fifth areas of focus, being entrepreneurship/innovation in agriculture. The Task Force discussed the need to develop business plan templates, to educate entrepreneurs and loan officers, and explore the development of a web portal for supporting and promoting statewide and regional entrepreneurship networks for local foods systems.

The next steps of the Task Force include: 1) Align K-12 and community college agriculture curriculum (local foods); 2) Update the agribusiness systems pathway with new incoming data (P-20 Pipeline); 3) Work with the Farm Bureau and FFA on student challenges (marketing/career awareness); 4) Incorporating project ideas into further initiatives (public and private innovation); and 5) Form a project team to explore the development of a web-based port to support entrepreneurship (entrepreneurship/innovation). Mike announced the next Task Force will be held in March 2011.

John Rico asked a question with how the Agriculture Task Force is using the Illinois workNet and was wondering if the P-20 Council should be utilizing it also. Julio Rodriguez stated that the long-term strategy is to begin utilizing Illinois workNet as a vehicle to gather necessary data to obtain additional funding as well as how to move forward to make improvements to those programs.

- Information Technology Task Force

John Rico began by noting an IT Task Force meeting was held August 18, 2010 at Microsoft's Chicago Office. The meeting provided updates on the P-20 Council and Jason Tyszko addressed the members regarding the Race to the Top application process and possible methods for connecting the implementation of the STEM Learning Exchanges to the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations. Matt Hancock, Executive Director for Polytechnical Education, and lead contractor for the Chicago Academy of Advanced Technology discussed the school's enrollment rate and the academic curriculum which are designed to prepare students for various technology-based careers through expanded technology, innovative teaching strategies emphasizing collaboration and entrepreneurship, and the establishment of business partnerships to expand the learning opportunities and diverse sources of support.

The Task Force members also discussed implementation of the report's work plan, particularly projects to promote Healthcare IT Education and Training programs and to promote Level 1 IT skills for all students, workers, and citizens. Discussion regarding the Healthcare IT project centered around the best ways to utilize activities already underway nationally and within the business community to best prepare Illinois' workforce for changes in electronic medical records and other Healthcare IT changes. In addition, the Task Force would coordinate its efforts with the Governor's Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) to ensure workforce training supports are in place to assist with Illinois' transition to electronic medical records by 2014. The Task Force began to identify the core Health IT occupations and how to best build a pipeline to target those occupations and properly align training programs that support those needs. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2010.

- Veterans Task Force

Jason Tyszko provided a high level of review of the Task Force progression from the last meeting. He stated that the Task Force decided to divide into three sub-groups to better identify challenges and target recommendations for the final report. The first sub-group, Transition to Employment defined the top three to five issues surrounding translating military skills and experience into civilian employment. The second sub-group, Access and Education and Training, focused on defining the top three to five issues regarding veterans transitioning into academic programs and identifying any remediation or guidance services needed (e.g. Shifting Gears Bridge Program). The third sub-group, Access and Utilization of Benefits and Support Services, focused on the challenges and barriers veterans encounter when seeking employment, accessing employment benefits, education benefits, family obligations, and on-going healthcare needs.

The full Task Force met on August 16, 2010 to share what each sub-group learned and identified and began to develop the task force's report to include comprehensive recommendations that will be presented as a draft report at the December IWIB meeting. Additionally, the Task Force has entered into a data sharing agreement with Illinois Department of Employment Security to conduct a baseline analysis of veterans' employment in the state which will help in forming recommendations outlined in the final report. Also, the Task Force convened a panel of representatives from the TAP Program, National Guard, Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin a dialog on mapping out full continuum of transitional services provided to veterans before, during, and after their discharge. The information gained will allow a matrix of services to be developed and to understand at what point various services are available such as counseling, skill assessment, and career planning and how clients are managed throughout the entire process so they are able to access needed services from the full spectrum of employment, education and training, and benefit and support services.

Jason reported the Task Force convened a Jumpstart Committee to start a project that will explore some of the recommendations and seek to connect Veterans with jobs right away. The planned event will be held on November 17, 2010 in Chicago in cooperation with the West Point Society of Chicago with hopes to have at least a minimum of a hundred veterans participating with a dozen employers, including members of the Task Force. The event will

demonstrate how technology can be used to supplement job fairs and networking events by utilizing tools and features made available through Illinois workNet.

- Shifting Gears

Lavon Nelson began by briefly reviewing the purpose and description of the Shifting Gears program. She noted this is the last year for the program; however, the Joyce Foundation has discussed the possibility of extending it for another year; but will not know the details until December or even as late as April 2011.

Lavon informed the members that the Shifting Gears Program is currently embedding the Bridge Programs in the field in two different program models: adult education and combining remedial education with career and technical education. Adult Education Program is English as a second language, GED, or adult basic education. The Adult Education Program has been leveraging WIA incentive funds to implement bridge programs with a goal of having at least one bridge program in every Area Planning Council. Adult Education Programs are required to have an Area Planning Council which typically follows the boundaries of the community college districts. Lavon briefly discussed the publication "How to Build Bridge Programs That Fit Into a Career Pathway" that was handed out at the meeting.

The second model is combining the career and technical education with the remedial education program. This bridge program is combining these two programs with the typical remedial reading and math skills along with the specific job skills in a specific sector (manufacturing, healthcare, etc.). Currently six of these bridge programs are beginning to start around the state. This is a critical aspect of the bridge program because one of the major policies of Shifting Gears was to develop a reimbursement mechanism for those colleges that would develop the career and technical education bridge program. Finally, Lavon stated that a subcommittee is working on the sustainability effort of the bridge programs which is the importance of embedding the bridge programs now so partners can move ahead in the future.

A messaging and communication meeting with Doug Golden and Associates that the Joyce Foundation has hired to work with all the Shifting Gears states. The consultants assisted on how to develop a message to encourage stakeholders to support sustainability of the program, including legislatures, employers, the public, etc.

A brief discussion was held after Lavon's presentation highlighting the efforts of the various partners throughout the five year program. Barb Oilschlager asked if and how the return on investment is being captured with regard to the impact on education and workforce. Lavon stated that with the assistance of the Joyce Foundation the information will be automatically collected on a web portal that will capture and track the people that participate in bridge programs and the sectors, etc. The web portal has been designed and is currently populating data on program performance.

Closing Comments, Public Comment, and Adjournment

In closing, Director Ribley mentioned that a formal summer youth program funded through U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) is being organized this year. DCEO was able to partner on

summer youth programs in the past with the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), who had funding under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF Program). Therese McMahon of DCEO's Office and Employment Training led the summer youth component of the TANF Program which placed approximately 6,400 youth in employment opportunities. Although this year's participation was down from last year's participants under the WIA Program, the local areas should be commended for their coordination efforts on such a short notice.

Director Ribley also stated that the reauthorization of WIA might be added to next year's agenda and will keep the membership informed on any new developments. A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of reinitiating the WIA Works Campaign to the congressional members to promote and pass a reauthorization bill. It was commented that the State's effort with the WIA Works campaign is on-going and is continuing to simplify the message for congressional members.

There was no public comment.

Director Ribley reiterated the meeting will remain open due to the voting on the SESP final report. He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2010 in Chicago with the logistics to be forthcoming.