

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MAY 28, 2006

8:30 A.M.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, P. Carey, L. Dillon, J. Fogler, B. Fortier, C. Haynes, D. Herath, J. Little, K. Herrera, T. Mallinson, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, M. Opperman, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, M. Stamm,

EXCUSED: R. Pass, S. Pronti, J. Rossi, M. Turnbull

ABSENT: T. Colbert, D. Cooper, L. Leonard, D. Marsh, E. O'Donnell, J. Wesche, N. Zahler

GUESTS: L. Holmes, County Office for the Aging; J. Flynn, K. Leonard, T. Doherty, NYSDOL; V. Zeppelin, TC3 Tech Prep; S. Varvyanis, Cornell University; S. Gillis, BOCES

STAFF: J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Opperman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Luz Herrera and unanimously adopted by voice of members present to approve the minutes of March 28, 2006, as submitted.

APPROVAL OF THREE-YEAR AMENDMENT

It was Moved by Mr. Bohman, seconded by Mr. Little and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the amendment to the three-year plan. New York State has requested an amendment to the WIB's three-year plan to address the alignment of NYSDOL Wagner-Peyser and Workforce Investment Act services in the One Stop Center. The amendment will allow the functions of staff in the Center to be blended and will merge their systems and workload.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL UPDATE AND ACTION ITEMS

AUTHORIZATION TO PERMANENTLY CHANGE FUNDING AWARD CYCLE FOR WIA YOUTH PROGRAMS FROM JULY 1 TO JUNE 30 TO OCTOBER 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30TH

It was Moved by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Ms. Patz and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present approve the permanent change funding award cycle for WIA Youth programs from July 1 to June 30 to October 1 to September 30th

Mr. Pedersen stated the Youth Employment Council has approved the permanent change to the funding cycle for the WIA Youth Employment Program from July 1 to June 30 to October 1 to September 30th. This will allow existing youth program contractors to continue providing services during the summer months, which is the peak youth employment season. In the past there has been the possibility that youth providers would change July 1st if the existing providers were unsuccessful in bidding on the program or chose not to apply for the new contract. This left a void until new programs could begin, delaying summer employment.

EXTENSION OF CURRENT WIA YOUTH CONTRACTS TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2006 AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO OPERATE WIA YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

It was Moved by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Ms. Patz and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present approve the extension of current WIA youth contracts to September 30, 2006 and authorize the release of the request for proposals to operate the WIA Youth Programs for the period of October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2008

Mr. Pedersen reported the current WIA contracts with the Office of Employment and Training for the Youth program expires June 30, 2006. The extensions of those contracts will allow for the release of the Request for Proposals during June 2006. The extension will also allow the Job Link Program operated through the Office of Employment and Training to continue serving youth during the summer months, the peak season for youth summer employment.

AUTHORIZE SIGNING OF CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF ITHACA YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND THE TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING TO OPERATE THE TANF SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

It was Moved by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Ms. Patz and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to authorize the signing of contracts with the City of Ithaca Youth Employment Services and the Tompkins County Office of Employment and training to operate the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program.

Mr. Pedersen stated the WIB (Executive Committee) authorized the release of a Request For Proposals for the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program for the summer of 2006. We received one proposal from the City of Ithaca Youth Employment Services to serve youth in the Ithaca City School District. The Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training will serve the remainder of the county as the default provider for programs.

WIB/TCAD JOINT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Mattick provided an overview of the organization's history, the successes of the workforce system in Tompkins County, current priorities of the WIB, and the recommendations for the future that have been approved by the joint committee that was comprised of members of the WIB and TCAD Board.

Prior to the enactment of the Workforce Investment Act, Tompkins County was part of two multi-county private industry councils; first with Cayuga/Cortland, and second with Broome/Tioga. Because of the uniqueness of Tompkins County, those relationships were not very effective and it was decided by the County Legislature in 1999 to become a single county WIB. At the same time, the Workforce Investment Act was being rolled out nationwide. Staff was hired and the Board was formed.

There was a significant amount of success early on; Tompkins County was viewed as a leader in workforce development in New York State. Tompkins County had the first certified One-Stop in New York State and produced the first State of the Workforce Report. The WIB also obtained over \$1 million dollars in grant funding to be used for planning purposes and targeted training.

Current priorities of the Board include keeping a one-stop center in Tompkins County, rebuild private sector commitment on the Board, reduce the amount of bureaucracy the Board undertakes and provide staff to support the Board and visit businesses with Tompkins County Area Development.

The options the joint committee considered were keeping the WIB status quo, joining a regional workforce investment area, subcontracting out areas of the organization that are overly bureaucratic, and aligning more closely with TCAD. The Committee decided the best course of action would be for Tompkins County to remain a single workforce investment area and refocus staff and the Board on the original vision to develop and coordinate resources that meet employer needs and facilitates employment and development opportunities for individuals. At the same time, closer alignment with TCAD would be beneficial and would allow staff resources to be used between the two organizations. The recommendation of the joint committee is to seek ongoing funding from Tompkins County to help sustain the County as a single workforce investment area.

Ms. Blanchard spoke in favor of the proposal to put the staff of the WIB and TCAD together. The collaboration of the two organizations will be greatly beneficial to the County.

Mr. Little stated he also supports the proposal, but asked how funding will be stabilized in coming years. Ms. Mattick stated the plan is to seek funding from the County to stabilize the WIB and at the same time research 501c3 status to see if it would make sense to move in that direction, and also

continue to look for other funding opportunities. She noted discussions with the County Administrator have been very supportive, but cautioned that no figures have been presented yet.

Mr. Bohman asked if there is sufficient funding for the WIB to get through 2006. Ms. Mattick stated that there is enough money, due in part to the fact that the Employment and Training Director position has not been filled.

Ms. Dillon asked for clarification on what areas might be subcontracted and whether the WIB and TCAD boards will merge. Ms. Opperman stated the monitoring that is conducted by WIB staff might be contracted out to another workforce area that has designated staff performing the monitoring function. Mr. Stamm addressed the question of merging the two board stating it is not the intent to do that at this time. He stated by sharing staff expertise, more time will be available to get employers involved with the goal being that they will eventually contribute resources toward specific initiatives. In the short-term it is difficult to get them to pay toward overhead.

Ms. Luz Hererra asked how the average unemployed person would be served under the recommendation. Ms. Opperman stated the One-Stop is performing that function and the funding will help it to continue. She stated in the last several months the Board has gotten away from its mission because it has been focusing its efforts on the financial issues. Mr. Bohman stated that Tompkins County is among the best in New York State with jobseeker and market penetration rates and this is something to remember. Even though the Board is facing financial struggles, individuals and businesses are still being served. Ms. Opperman stated this is true and noted that the alternatives that have been explored will not keep the rates as high. The alternatives are not as good for the uniqueness of Tompkins County.

Mr. Haynes stated it's also important to remember that it is rare that economic development and workforce development organizations work together as well as they do in Tompkins County.

Mr. McKee stated the one-stop partnership model has been a bad design from the beginning and because of it the one-stop partnership hasn't been able to continue to support the infrastructure.

It was Moved by Mr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Stamm and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the recommendation of the joint committee to remain a single county workforce investment area and authorize the development of the budget seeking the County's financial support to sustain the organization.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg-Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.