

**NEW YORK CITY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
WORKFORCE POLICY COMMITTEE**

Meeting of May 19, 2010

At the New York City Department of Small Business Services

110 William Street, 7th Floor

New York, NY 10038

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Bill Abramson, Horace Barker, Robert Battista, Charles Callahan, Rocco Damato, Pat Fahy (by phone), Debbie King, Mark Leff, Joe McDermott, John Mogulescu

Also Present:

David Berman, Marty Oesterreich, Lea Kilraine, John Moye, Matt White, Allison Quigney, Chris Cesarani, Angie Kamath, Katie Schwartz, Florence Wong, Rebecca Brown, David Fischer, Phil Weinberg, Deldreana Peterkin, Kate Yager, Cesar Cardenas

Rocco Damato, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 18, 2010 meeting of the Workforce Policy Committee were approved.

Rocco Damato welcomed the Committee and provided members with an overview of the meeting agenda.

Training Provider Exemption Policy

To present the first agenda item, Mr. Damato introduced Horace Barker. Mr. Barker detailed the efforts of the Working Group which consisted of himself, Bill Abramson and Joe McDermott to resolve the dispute over exemptions for certain training providers from the New York state mandate that all training providers on the ETPL (Eligible Training Provider List) and their subcontractors that provide courses funded by ITGs shall be required to comply fully with state standards for licensing and registration. The Group determined that Exempt Providers must meet four criteria: proof of good legal standing with city and state government; verification that the organization is a not-for-profit and does not accept tuition or fees; proof that classrooms (or other educational settings) are appropriately staffed and supplied; and demonstration that each course is connected to state- and/or industry-recognized certifications, to show that training leads to skill attainment valued by employers. Mr. Barker proposed a resolution affirming these four criteria and calling upon the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) to establish and implement a policy setting forth the specific standards that Exempt Providers must satisfy in order to be eligible to receive ITAs, which the Committee approved.

Amending Current Report Card Standards for Training Providers

To present the second agenda item, Mr. Damato introduced Katy Gaul, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce1 Training and Advancement at SBS. Ms. Gaul led a discussion with the Committee Members regarding how SBS evaluates training providers through its publicly available Report Cards, asserting several problems with the current policy. Ms. Gaul recommended several changes to the policy, including reducing the number of vouchers that qualify a Report Card evaluation and raising the minimum standard for course completion from 75 percent to 90 percent of those who enrolled. Several Members responded with concerns

regarding both the substance of these changes and the lack of advance notice that they might be called upon to approve them in the meeting. The issue was tabled without the resolution coming up for a vote.

City Hall Young Male Initiative

To present the third agenda item, Mr. Damato introduced David Fischer, the WIB Vice-President for Planning and Policy. Mr. Fischer in turn introduced Andrea Batista Schlesinger, senior policy advisor to Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs and special assistant to Mayor Bloomberg. Ms. Batista Schlesinger described her work through the first months of 2010 on the City Hall Young Male Initiative, proposed by Mayor Bloomberg in his January 2010 State of the City address. Among other goals pertaining to public safety and responsible fatherhood, this effort will focus on boosting high school completion rates and expanding employment opportunities for young African-American and Latino males. Ms. Batista Schlesinger then engaged the Committee in a discussion about her work.

Citywide Workforce Coordination Initiative

To present the final item on the agenda, Mr. Damato again turned to Mr. Fischer, who briefly described for the Committee the Citywide Workforce Coordination Initiative co-convened by the Deputy Mayors for Economic Development, Human Services and Education. The three Deputy Mayors launched this effort in April, working with the various city agencies and departments responsible for providing labor market-relevant education, job training and employment services to better align and rationalize the publicly funded workforce system across agency lines and funding streams. Mr. Fischer detailed the four work groups arising from the initiative, exploring possibilities for closer collaboration and new programming in Customer Service, Labor Market Information, Accountability and Reporting, and Literacy. WIB staff members were asked to take a leadership role in the latter three groups. The groups will continue their work through 2010.

Finally, WIB President Phil Weinberg and Mr. Barker took the occasion to thank Mr. Damato, who would be leaving the Committee and the WIB as he relocated his business to Pennsylvania, for his many years of leadership on the Committee and Board.

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned.