STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 19, 2010, 10 A.M.
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH, DWD ROOM 301-C
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Present: Susan Brooks, Carol D'Amico, Mark Goldman, Jac Padgett, Paul Perkins, Derek Redelman, and Dennis Wimer.

Also Present: From the Indiana Department of Workforce Development: Mark W. Everson, Commissioner; Dr. Gina DelSanto, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Performance, Les Williams, Budget and Grant Accounting, and Betty Culley, Policy.

Call to Order and Roll: State Workforce Innovation Council Chair, Paul Perkins, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and a quorum was present. Members had received drafts of the March 18, April 15 and May 6, 2010 Executive Committee minutes for review. Mr. Perkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Committee Business:
Dr. DelSanto said that the Executive Committee needed to prepare for the State Workforce Innovation Council's meeting on September 16. Mr. Redelman offered to present an update about Adult Education Reform concerning the Indiana Department of Education's (DOE) Adult Basic Education program proceeding in conjunction with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Dr. DelSanto gave an update about the current efforts to coordinate the program between the two departments. She reported that the Department of Education will retain the funding, and that some DWD staff is now dually reporting to the State Adult Education Director at DOE. In the future, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) State Plan will need to be modified regarding adult education to indicate the two departments' relationship and reporting requirements. The SWIC would need to vote on the modification. Also, there will need to be discussion on increasing funding for adult education with WIA funding.

Members discussed statistics regarding the number of Hoosiers who lack a high school diploma or GED. Mr. Goldman asked what was the cost of attaining a GED. Dr. DelSanto replied that training costs varied widely and there were other variables such as class size. For a WIA participant, a standard cost for training could be determined. Then the person could be given a voucher to receive a certain number of hours of GED training.

Dr. DelSanto queried the committee about whether a minimum threshold should be established for persons entering this training. Their grade levels could be determined. Communities do offer basic literacy and numeracy training. Mr. Padgett stated that persons could be connected with other networks. He asked if participants' progress would be tracked. Dr. DelSanto said that clients would have reemployment plans and work regularly with case managers. Discussion continued about persons' grade levels that are currently enrolled in classroom training.

Dr. DelSanto raised a second question to the committee regarding the planned direction of GED training. Should the training should have an occupational orientation? That could increase capacity, sharpen the focus, and expand the program. Presently, GED candidates chose one of five goals as a successful outcome in connection with their training. Carol D'Amico said that many states align now with technical training or work. Dr. DelSanto said a priority of service policy could be written.

Commissioner Everson gave an update. He then excused himself due to another commitment.

Susan Brooks asked about the status of WIA reauthorization. Dr. DelSanto responded that if WIA reauthorization did not occur, the state would write the seventh year of its WIA State Plan next year.

Dr. DelSanto explained more background about the GED as an academic credential which could be moved to occupational certification and training which is nationally recognized and involves a test. Mr. Perkins said that employers have set a GED as a requirement, and employers recognize certifications. Employers constantly review requirements for jobs. Dr. DelSanto reported that there is national credentialing Department of Labor committee and Carol D'Amico, as part of Conexus, has been asked to join that committee.

Les Williams, from DWD's Budgeting and Accounting, joined the meeting to present a budget and participation update on the Workforce Acceleration Grant program. Members discussed the report and posed several questions to Mr. Williams. They requested additional information regarding participants which Mr. Williams will gather. Dr. DelSanto said closeout information about the 2009 budget will be available for the next SWIC meeting.

Dr. DelSanto reported that there are seven new members of the State Workforce Innovation Council. New member training will take place from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on September 16 before the regularly scheduled SWIC quarterly meeting at 10 a.m. Dr. DelSanto asked whether Executive Committee members could be available for the training to speak about their committees. Several will attend.

Dr. DelSanto directed everyone's attention to a handout labeled Monthly Metrics, Regional Report to SWIC. The handout charts customer flow patterns in WorkOne offices. At points in service, the number of participants and percentages are calculated. Mr. Perkins requested that the reported percentages be clearly explained. Mr. Wimer asked how the data would be organized. Dr. DelSanto said there would be twelve sheets each month and one total sheet. The report would track new persons in the system and those continuing.

Adjournment
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION COUNCIL

Paul Perkins, Chairman

ATTEST:

for

Mark W. Everson, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Workforce Development