



Chris Christie, Governor
Dennis M. Bone, Chair

State Employment & Training Commission

SETC Commission Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2011

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Rutgers Labor Education Center - 50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Dennis Bone called the meeting to order at 10:15 am and read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement. The meeting was advertised in the Trenton Times and Star Ledger newspapers. A motion to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2011 meeting was approved.

II. Chairman's Report

NJ Place: A copy of the letter sent to Commissioner Wirths in support of the continuation of funding for NJ Place was included in the Commission packet. Chairman Bone reported that the program was funded at a slightly reduced level but with renewed goals of expanding into additional industries: hospitality, health care and green.

Introduction and Confirmation of Executive Director: Chairman Bone called for vote to approve Michele Horst as the SETC's new Executive Director. Motion was moved by Charles Wowkanech, seconded by Commissioner Wirths – Ms. Horst was confirmed as the Executive Director of SETC by unanimous vote.

III. SETC Presentation

New Executive Director, Michele Horst gave an overview presentation on the vision, goals and initial strategies for the SETC moving into the next 12 months. Highlights of the PowerPoint presentation included:

- Collaboration (defined as shared planning, decision making and resources) with business, labor, economic development, government, and nonprofits will be the essential building block of workforce development and is the cornerstone of the federal WIA re-authorization and the interdependency and the need for a new way of approaching enduring and new workforce problems.
- The SETC vision for workforce development is strategically driven by understanding what resources are brought to the table by the Commission's members.
- Need to continue history of successful programs and initiatives.

- SETC's role is to understand and articulate the workforce needs of employers, from the sectors with the best projected outcomes for job seekers, to align education and training investments and resources with the needs of the industry to maximize employment.
- Line-of-sight: it is important for SETC to be strategically aligned with the planning and policy setting at the local level and the reverse. Focus on developing the connections to the local WIB's and supporting the system wide work through capacity building to create system cohesion.
- Based on information and analysis by Labor Planning and Analysis the top 6 industry sectors for New Jersey have been prioritized as those sectors to drive new workforce development investments for the next several years. The sectors Pharmaceutical/Bio/Life Sciences, Technology/Entrepreneurship, Transportation, Logistics and Distribution (TLD), Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Finance were chosen based on the data that demonstrates that these 6 industries account for more than 50% of all jobs in New Jersey and are fields that are determined to also have the best growth opportunities in the next decade.

Feedback and questions elicited and discussion among the Commission members ensued regarding the SETC vision and the priority sectors. It was stated that a critical missing sector is the hospitality/retail industry. It was noted that the hospitality industry employers are in crisis because of the economy and because [venues] are being bought up by venture capitalists whose interests are not represented at this table. Is this industry missing from the talent network sectors?

A discussion about the adding this industry to the list of priority industries, comments included:

- The importance of up-skilling and NJ tourism.
- That representation from the service/hospitality industry is not present on the Commission.
- Align leadership of the Commission to be representative of each of the priority sectors to drive planning and policy making with employer needs.
- People don't [necessarily] need degrees, but skill sets – there is a disconnect.
- Discussion about the need for sector alignment and focus [through the Talent Networks] in lower-level jobs.
- A suggestion was made to fill Commission vacancies with people from industries driving the economy, including service and hospitality. Further discussion ensued about who might be a good addition to the Commission and it was requested that members submit potential names to the Executive Director.
- A change in leadership is a good time to reflect. Feedback is appreciated.

IV. SCALES Committee

Committee Chair, Bob Santare reported the committee's ongoing concerns re: adequacy of funding. Mr. Santare reported that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development made available \$20,000 to conduct an in-depth look at the state of adult education in NJ.

The data collection, being conducted by Montclair State University, will aggregate census data [with a focus on] educational attainment, One Stop data, funding data, and an understanding of what exists and what is needed, as the resources dwindle, as exemplified by the the de-funding Adult H.S.

V. Governance Committee:

Chair Jody Levinson reported that the Governance Committee continues to focus on how to best build the capacity of the WIB system, identify ways to best educate and inform all leaders in the system and strive to create a system of accountability and basic assurances to better create a unified system.

Currently SETC is focusing on strengthening the capacity and oversight of the workforce system through the Local Workforce Investment Boards. She provided an update on the current policies in rule making

- WIB Certification Policy – out for 60 day public comment July 5, 2011
- WIB Accountability Policy (formerly “sanction policy”) – Open comment period just closed, comments being aggregated and document with appendix will go through Executive Review of both the LWD and the Governor’s Office prior to final adoption sometime in the fall 2011.

VI. Public Comment

A discussion was raised regarding the role of older workers and their workforce development needs. The discussion highlighted:

- Growing population of older workers – what programs exist for 55+ low-income people.
- Goal to get subsidized employment – program that is underutilized.
- Need programs for middle income older workers – there is a huge talent pool [who possess the] maturity to focus on work and bring work experience.

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2011, 10am – 12pm at NJ Law Center, New Brunswick

**STATE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COMMISSION MEETING
ATTENDEES - JUNE 7, 2011**

PRESENT MEMBERS or ALTERNATES

Barry, Marie (for Cerf)
Bone, Dennis
Davis, Gail
Ehrlich, Kim (for Franzini)
Hornik, Stephen
Karsian, Andrea
Levinson, Jody
McAndrew, Brian
Mickens, Felix (for Lawson)
Reisser, Clifford
Ryan, G. Jeremiah (for Contini)
Sabater, Julio
Santare, Robert
Trezza, Joann
Wade, Carolyn
Wirths, Harold
Wowkanech, Charles

ABSENT MEMBERS

Berry, Dana
Carey, Michael
Carpiano, Celeste
Gacos, Nicholas
Grifa, Lori
Henderson, Henry
Linder, Msgr. William
McNamara, Joseph
Munyan, Robert
Nutter, Harvey
Sen, Tapas
Stout, Bruce
Velez, Jennifer

OTHER ATTENDEES

Clark, Mary Ellen
Fichtner, Aaron
Williams, Gregory
Yuen, Paul

SETC STAFF

Conway, Ashley
Davis, Lansing
Horst, Michele
O'Brien-Murphy, Maureen