

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

Meeting of February 22, 2007

At the New York City Department of Small Business Services
110 William Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10038

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

William Abramson	William Janowitz	Joseph McDermott
Charles Callahan	Deborah King	John Mogulescu
Rocco Damato	Mark Leff for Pam Brier	Sara Spatz

Also Present:

Sara Ain	Brian Egan	Cristina Shapiro
Leonard Battle	Katy Gaul	Marilyn Shea
Rebecca Brown	Angie Kamath	Melissa Wavelet
Janet Clemetson	Omer Mohammed	Mia Simon
Spencer Cronk	Melinda Mulawka	Scott Zucker

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 11, 2007 Workforce Policy Committee were approved.

Workforce1 Career Center Updates

Melissa Wavelet, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce1 Career Center Program Management at the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), reported that SBS's contract with Arbor E&T to provide jobseeker services at the Staten Island Workforce1 Career Center would expire on October 31, 2007. Ms. Wavelet stated that SBS has the option to renew or terminate the contract upon expiration. She indicated that SBS is in the process of carefully evaluating Arbor E&T's performance in order to determine the appropriate course of action.

Ms. Wavelet also reported that the senior leadership of SBS and the City University of New York (CUNY) have mutually agreed to close the CUNY on the Concourse Workforce1 Career Center. She stated that the Center would continue to serve its existing customers through March 31, 2007 but not enroll new customers for services. New customers would instead be referred to other Workforce1 Career Centers. Ms. Wavelet noted that while closing the Center was a difficult decision, it was one of a number of programmatic cuts resulting from the \$13 million reduction in New York City's Program Year 2006 Workforce Investment Act Adult and Dislocated Worker allocations.

Wagner-Peyser Performance Management Presentation

Sara Spatz and Sara Ain of the New York State Department of Labor's Division of Employment Services (DoES) provided the Committee with an overview of the Wagner-Peyser program, which is administered by DoES staff in New York City. They noted that 65% of New York City's common customer population is served by DoES staff and that Reemployment customers account for 88% of New York City's common performance pool and therefore greatly affect the performance of the City's workforce system overall.

Sara Ain explained the Common Measures used to measure Wagner-Peyser program performance: Entered Employment, Retention and Average Earnings. Next, she reported on New York City's performance under each measure the third quarter of Program Year 2005 and presented a draft report card of common measures performance for the first quarter of Program Year 2006.

Sara Spatz then provided an overview of the City's Reemployment Plan, targeted to Unemployment Insurance (UI) customers, which was approved by the New York State Department of Labor in December 2006. She noted that key strategies of the Plan included: making initial contact with customers within the first two weeks; reassessing customer needs before the 90th day after enrollment; and expanding the customer pool to include union members and those on temporary layoffs. Ms. Spatz reported that implementation of these strategies was expected to improve outcomes for Reemployment customers and therefore improve the performance of the City's workforce system overall.

Functional Alignment Update

Angie Kamath, SBS Executive Director of Community and Strategic Partnerships, provided the Committee with a brief update on the New York City Operator Consortium's progress toward implementing the Functional Alignment Plan for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser services in the Workforce1 Career Centers. Ms. Kamath reported that the Operator Consortium had been holding regular meetings of senior WIA and Wagner-Peyser program staff focused on the functional alignment initiative. Further, she reported that a number of important procedures would be rolled out in the Career Centers on April 1st to support the delivery of common services to customers.

Legislative Update

Marilyn Shea, WIB Executive Director, reported that both houses of the new Democratic Congress approved a joint resolution for a continuing resolution to keep national appropriations, including federally-funded workforce programs, level-funded. She noted that the resolution did not include a rescission, and further, that it prohibited rule changes by regulation on the part of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ms. Shea also reported that the New York State Department of Labor had recently issued WIA planning estimates for Program Year 2007 (PY07). New York City's PY07 allocations, compared to PY06, were \$1.061 million greater for the Adult funding stream, \$1.388 million less for the Dislocated Worker Funding stream and \$791,000 greater for the Youth funding stream. Ms. Shea concluded by stating that the New York State Department of Labor was expected to release final WIA allocations in late March.

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned.