

Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Finance and Performance Measurement Committee
06/11/09

Fairhaven Homecare Conference Room

Finance and Performance Measurement Committee members present: Chair Bruce Morell, Edward J. Dennehy, Joe Notini, WIB Chair Dave DeJesus, Charles R. Simpson, Jr.

Finance and Performance Measurement Committee members absent: James C. Nichols, John Fernandes , Peter Muise, Maria Pinarreta

Others in attendance: Len Coriaty, Steven Grant, Norm Audette, Jean Fox, Ron Rheaume

Chair Bruce Morell began the meeting at 3:10 pm. He noted he had proxy votes, if needed from Peter Muise and Maria Pinarreta

Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the 5/14/09 **meeting minutes** and the May 30th Treasurer's Report was made by Chuck Simpson and seconded by Ed Dennehy. All were in favor.

Finance Report

Steve Grant noted the report was more of a preview of F/Y 10 funding and budget issues in lieu of the regular expenditure report that is usually presented. Mr. Grant referred to charts that showed the funding streams that supported staff salaries for New Directions and the WIB for F/Y '09 and the preliminary comparison for F/Y '10. He said the F/Y '10 salaries were calculated with increases of 3% included but decision has been made that salaries would be frozen to begin the year. This would reduce salaries by about \$68,000. Mr. Grant explained that the charts show that without the infusion of ARRA funding we would be facing a reduction in staff of 8 or 9. Mr. Grant said this leads into the agenda item on ARRA plan last minute changes. He stated that when we received the funding figures for F/Y 10 we realized we would lose staff unless ARRA picked up a greater share of salaries. He said we reduced ARRA training for Adult and Dislocated Workers by \$130K but still maintained a level of training above the Federal requirement. Len Coriaty noted that we were at around 72% for training initially and dropped back down to around 61%. Mr. Grant referred to the chart for key expenditures to show that Dislocated Workers was impacted the most with ITA's declining by \$190K under formula funding and ARRA now adding only \$98K back. He stated that Dislocated Training dollars increase overall but we have committed \$186K to group training.

Mr. Grant noted that the One Stop funding of \$135K was still in question. He explained that this figure was the estimate based on the last know cut to the state One Stop line, - about a \$54K cut from last year. Mr. Grant said the only word given from DCS about One Stop funding was that areas would not be hurt if they budgeted zero but hinted that there could be some funding. Dave DeJesus asked "so if ARRA is keeping us afloat we could lose staff next year?" Ed Dennehy answered that NDSC would probably lose seven. Len said the WIB would also face a cut and explained that WIB staff is currently maxed out and does not have the ability to do everything we are trying to do. He said the staff is planning to analyze the staff / workload in the next few weeks. He said we would probably have to make a decision on two worthwhile positions, the literacy position and youth coordinator position which would also deal with green jobs.

Discussion ensued about the state budget with Norm Audette noting that once the budget goes to committee everything is up for grabs, and also noted they are still counting on capital gains which will

not exist. Bruce Morell stated that the next budget cuts will be revenue driven. Norm noted that local aid is different in the House and Senate and that the City could be on the hook for \$4.3 million. He said the was talk that state would issue 1/12th budget.

Len noted that the charts were a snapshot and that the state has not issued the budget guidelines. He said there would be six weeks to submit the budget after guidance..

Operations Report

Ed Dennehy –said activity was still high at the center. He said we are still on track for 12,500 regular CC customers for the year and that does not include most of those coming for UI claims. He referred to a chart showing 2,132 visits in May for UI claims and services compared to 971 in May of '08. Ed said they are still waiting to get two UI employees. Joe Notini said he is working to get that done as soon as possible and they are hopeful to get back two who had worked in New Bedford previously.

Ed noted the ITA total of \$426,000 to date which served 153 job seekers. He said 113 of those were Dislocated Workers.

Ed said there was still no activity on the City's Brownfield grant, now expected to start late August or early September. He noted receipt of a \$7,000 grant from A.D. Makepeace to outfit the Wareham classroom.

As for ARRA and Youth activity Ed noted 1,299 applications to date. He said 301 are deemed eligible and 998 folders need more documentation. Jean Fox talked about the difficulty the youth staff face in compiling all of the eligibility documentation. Ed said they now have 22 kids working – one under ARRA at Southcoast Hospitals. He also said they are faced with a lot of no shows at orientation. Len asked if they keep a running record of that. Ed said they did and they gave the kids a couple of chances to attend. He said parents get the kids to fill out the applications but many don't want to work.

Ed noted the stepped up Reemployment Services Program (RES) will not be in full swing until September or October which will allow time to hire staff and provide the space for additional seminars. He said, statewide, 2,500 per week will have to go the centers for CC Seminars based on letters sent out.

Operations Review

Dave asked Ed about the Ops Review. Ed said that much of that was part of the ARRA plan. Dave suggested a written report for each meeting to update the implementation of Ops revue initiatives.

Other Business

Bruce Morell noted that P.A.C.E. received a good sum of stimulus money that was flexible and decided to set aside \$30,000 to supplement ITA's as they had done in the past. Ed thanked Bruce and said that would help.

Ed brought up an issued NDSC had with the Youth Program negotiations, specifically with My Turn. He said the negotiations resulted in a doubling up of one position and that it would negatively impact GED results. He said his issue was that Wendy Andrade was not invited to participate in the negotiations and asked why since they felt the operator can provide a lot of input on suggested changes.

Len said he has asked that question but has not yet received an answer. Mr. Grant noted that he was in the meeting with Jean, and the impact of My Turn's budget cut was not conveyed to us until after the negotiations. We responded by offering a bit more money. Dave asked Len "if you don't have your answer yet, who has it? Len referred to Jean Fox. Echoing an earlier remark by Mr. Grant, Ms. Fox noted that New Directions has been fully engaged in ARRA activities and youth eligibility. This has also been a WIB focus. With time rapidly diminishing to implement both formula and stimulus programs, and for purposes of expediency, the WIB, as the fiscal agent, determined to proceed as quickly as possible with the formula contract negotiations. With one exception, the bidders are the same as in previous years. The contracts must then be generated and executed. Jean explained that this decision was not exclusionary, but intended to move the process along as quickly as possible in light of the significant ARRA demands on all staff. Ms. Fox further concurred with Mr. Grant that the WIB was actively pursuing a way of including the GED instructor into the MY TURN contract, in light of the practitioner's concerns, and within the parameters of noteworthy budget restrictions. She also agreed with Mr. Dennehy, however, that a more defined negotiation process is in order.

MOTION

Chuck Simpson motioned to adjourn. Ed Dennehy seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:52pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 09/02/09 – 3:00pm – Fairhaven Home Care Conference Room (Southcoast Hospitals Group) in Fairhaven

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Grant
Chief Financial Officer