



LEHIGH VALLEY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, INC.

**MARCH 17, 2009
MINUTES**

The Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Inc. met on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:30am at Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Inc., 1601 Union Boulevard, Allentown.

Committee Members present: Bert Daday, Todd Donnelly, Robert Episcopo, Eugene Ervin, Dan Farrell, Vito Gallo, Kelly Gould, Armand Greco, Patricia Hartwell, Clyde Hornberger, Alan Jennings, John MacDonald, Ross Marcus, Kelly Meyer, Mike Moorehead, Ed Murray, Lisa Nesbitt, Jack Pfunder, Gregg Potter, Sharon Scheirer, Sis-Obed Torres, David Vaida, William Van Geertruyden, Mary Ellyn Voden, Rick Walters, Mary Anne Wright and Ed Zale.

Committee Members absent: Marta Gabriel, Sally Gammon, Mary Kay Grim, Drew Lewis, John Mehler, Phil Mitman, Steve Morrow, Peter Rittenhouse, Art Scott, Don Snyder, Michael Stershic, Wanda Sule, Marc Troutman, and Carol Young.

Chair Ervin welcomed all and introduced new Board members of the LVWIB, Lisa Nesbitt, Northampton County Public Assistance, William Van Geertruyden, EMV Technologies, and Mary Anne Wright, Salisbury Township School District, as well as visitors. Chair Ervin and Nancy Dischinat welcomed Gary Dologite, President of Society for Human Resource Management/Lehigh Valley Chapter, who presented a check for \$2,000 for workforce initiatives.

Nancy Dischinat showed the Raymond Spencer Tribute airing on WLVT/Channel 39 and asked the minutes to reflect the significant impact that Ray had on the workforce system for the past 25 years.

Chair Ervin called for a motion to approve the December 16, 2008 Board minutes, Kelly Gould made a motion, Clyde Hornberger seconded. All approved, motion passed.

Action Items

Nancy Dischinat presented the following action items that were sent by email and provided in their meeting packets:

- a. Priority of Services Policy. Ed Zale made a motion, Robert Episcopo seconded. All approved, motion passed.
- b. Priority of Services for Veterans and Eligible Spouses. Robert Episcopo made a motion, Michael Moorehead seconded. All approved, motion passed.
- c. 2009 Youth Program Renewal Proposal Summaries. Mary Ellyn Voden made a motion, Ed Zale second. All approved, motion passed.
- d. 2008 Projected Revenue and Spending Plan. Kelly Meyer reported and discussed the changes to plan. He also reported that we received a clean audit and the final audit report will be presented at the June LVWIB meeting.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Chair Ervin introduced an overview presentation on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Nancy Dischinat presented a PowerPoint on ARRA including funding from the U.S. Department of Labor for Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth. She discussed the main points of the Stimulus Act, signed on February 17, 2009. The state WIBs are working diligently

to implement the ARRA. She reported on the \$5 million PA Stimulus Grants, which are competitive, grants in three areas: Career Development Opportunities Grants, Upskilling and Career Pathways Grants, and Career Building On-the-Job Training (OJT) Grants.

Nancy Dischinat mentioned that she attended the National Association Workforce Boards conference in Washington, D.C. where the new Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, was introduced. Secretary Solis was a customer of the CJTA workforce system. She described the actions taken by the LVWIB to plan and implement the ARRA such as statewide meetings, LVWIVB roundtables meetings, forums with legislators and more. Alan Jennings discussed the weatherization grant dollars, which CACLV is receiving, and the need for contractors.

Nancy Dischinat has developed and presented a Request for Concept Papers on Innovative Summer Youth programs, which will be placed in newspapers shortly.

Alan Jennings discussed the need to help small businesses in the Lehigh Valley. Alan asked the LVWIB to participate in an effort to provide technical assistance to small businesses and other support mechanisms. Other organizations that may be involved are the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation and Manufacturer Resource Center. Nancy Dischinat will be meeting with Alan Jennings, Jack Pfunder and LVEDC to discuss this idea.

Chair Ervin asked if the LVWIB has the staff to implement elements of the ARRA. Robert Episcopo recommended that the private sector be engaged in all aspects of implementation, so that government jobs are not created temporarily.

Rick Walters reported on funding expected to be received by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and would like to collaborate with the LVWIB.

Chair Ervin discussed that a special meeting of the Executive Committee and/or LVWIB will be scheduled in order to obtain Board assistance on ARRA implementation.

Committee Reports

- a. Chair Ervin discussed the Delivery System Analysis underway, including partner interviews, best practices and the U.S. and employer focus groups. In addition, the Lehigh Valley Business Education Partnership is having a strategic Planning session on March 23, 2009.
- b. Nancy Dischinat reported on the Governance Committee, which is reviewing the policies on the LVWIB.
- c. The Access Committee did not meet; however, the Priority of Services Policy were reviewed and approved to move to the full LVWIB Board.
- d. The Marketing Committee is working on collateral materials to communicate elements of the ARRA, as well as other marketing pieces and activities.
- e. Nancy Dischinat reported on the Industry Committee and the discussion held by employers who would like a CD on a Reality Check.
- f. Clyde Hornberger discussed the most recent Youth Council meeting including a presentation by Michael Rodriguez, Principal of Central Elementary in Allentown, who
- g. Nancy Dischinat presented the PA Career Gates Puzzle, which is being produced for elementary school students.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.