Successfully Transitioning from a Government Agency to a Non-Profit

Workforce Boards in the non-profit world - "workforce without a net"



1983 - City of Dallas Private Industry Council and Dallas County Private Industry Council

- Brief history two very low performing boards with limited resources in the same geographic footprint –
- Dallas county 871 sq. miles
- Some public sector board members actually served on both boards!
- Two independent staffs only six workforce centers

1991 – Merger Before it was in fashion!

- Both boards were experiencing serious performance difficulty!
- County Board remained as an advisory board to the County Employment and Training Department
- City Board had been privatized since 1987 with dismal results – lawsuits, investigations and media scrutiny!
- One Chief Elected Official with a Vision!

1995 - HB 1863 Texas' Landmark Legislation for Workforce Programming

- Local Control
- Small/more efficient government
- Emphasis on work and individual responsibility Texas Employment Commission (Wagner-Peyser/UI) transformed into the

Texas Workforce Commission

devolved management of over 25 programs to the locals-more programs than most other states — including TANF Employment and Training (Choices), Workforce Investment Act, other workforce development programs, and child care.

Operating without a NET?

- The Agreements Partnership and CEO
- Retooling the Board
- Retooling the elected and community relationships
- Branding not just a logo
- Staffing entrepreneurs?
- Infrastructure who's name is on the lease?
- "Inventing the Bottom Line"
- Risk Management procurement/contracting

When the environment is right – what next?

Leadership - elected and appointed Financial resources for transition Adopt a governance structure Personnel management Staffing - slightly different skills Advisors - private attorney, leaseinsurance-retirement brokers and other non-profit specialists

Independence Comes at A Price!

- Personnel benefits, retirement, continuity
- Payroll
- Tax filings

Always a Work in Progress

- Audits
- Complaints
- Media
- On-line identity and management

The Payoff

Efficient
Nimble
Employer Driven
High Performing
Non-political
Responsive

And isn't that what we want to be?

