



MINUTES
EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017
8:00 A.M.

- Members Present:** Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Howard Jenkins; Chris Jewell; Armelde Pitre; Darlene Serra; Jason Vlaun; Jeffrey Beadle; Deb Monahan; Mel Olsson; Kelli Vallieres; Marcy Reed; *Mary Ellen Jukoski*; John Murphy; Lindy Lee Gold; Lisa Arends; *Jessica Corneau*; & Jim Butler.
- Staff Present:** John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.
- Others Present:** Cyndi Wells, Andrea Messenger, Gumwatty Garcia, Pat Dixe, Suzanne Cimochowski, Nancy Cowser, Carol Williams, Dave Edgecomb, & Jody Lefkowitz.
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Call to Order

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed former EWIB Board member, Dr. Carol Williams, representing the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2017 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*GOLD/ARENDS*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were reviewed:

- 1) **Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation** – Issued Interim Report to the Foundation that previously contributed to the Early College Opportunity program (*ECO*) and recently made a 3-year contribution in the amount of \$511,680 toward the Manufacturing Pipeline for the greater Windham Community. The report showed that the program is performing at 118% above the Year 1 goal – leveraging \$262K of Foundation funding into \$1.3 M in wages in the greater Windham community.
- 2) **Supporting Workforce Needs** – A statewide newspaper article reported on efforts underway to assist some of CT's largest defense manufacturers (*EB, Pratt, Sikorsky, and their supply chains*) with their anticipated large hiring needs over the next decade. The opportunity for the region and the state is tremendous, but it will be a challenge to support these needs, given such large demand.
- 3) **Thank You Letters** – Letters were sent to each of the organizations that contributed to this year's Summer Youth Employment Program (*SYEP*) in appreciation for their support.
- 4) **2017 SYEP Media Coverage** – Local media articles reported on the start of this year's program. Due to budget issues, no state funding was received. However, thanks to the contribution of several local

organizations, a smaller program was able to be organized. Mr. Beauregard expressed his appreciation to all the youth program providers on behalf of the Board and staff.

- 5) **Scholarship Thank You Letters** – Thank-you notes were received from each of the recipients of this year's EWIB-Pitre STEM Leadership Scholarship winners. A reception was held in June where U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (2nd Dist.) was the guest of honor.

CETC REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beauregard provided a presentation covering the following items:

- **Regional Economic Update** – Mr. Beauregard reported on the impact of the region's recent job growth, noting that the Norwich/New London Labor Market Area (LMA) is now the "fastest-growing labor market area" in CT. It was also recently ranked "4th for Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP) growth in the U.S. last year," (Dec 2015 – Dec 2016) by the national magazine, Area Development. He added that the Eastern region recently ranked 1st & 2nd (New London County & Windham County, respectively, July 2016 – July 2017 by % change) year-over-year, in single-family home prices statewide.
- **Program Notes**
 - **Workforce Assessment Study** – EWIB and Electric Boat staff participated in a study performed by the Yale School of Management over the summer. The study identified the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (Mfg. Pipeline) as one of the state's "Best Practices." Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the report is asked to contact Sheila Taurianen (taurianens@ewib.org).
 - **Manufacturing Pipeline** – (The program recently eclipsed 500 participants to be offered employment.) The Pipeline was also officially recognized by the CT Department of Labor (CTDOL) Office of Apprenticeship Training as a "Qualified Pre-Apprenticeship" program. Certificates will be sent to Mfg. Pipeline graduates. Given the employer demand for this training, the training class schedule has been accelerated. It is estimated that program training funds will be exhausted in the first quarter of 2018. Staff continues to research funding and sustainability options and will update the Executive Committee.
 - **Healthcare Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG)** – The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recently identified EWIB as a national "Best Practice" for our integration of its Health CAP program into the American Job Centers.
 - **Facilities Update** – Both the Office of Policy & Management and the CT Attorney General have approved the lease agreement for the new Montville American Job Center (AJC). The landlord was authorized by CTDOL to begin the build-out with a February 2018 opening anticipated. Mr. Beauregard announced that CTDOL also formally notified the landlord of the Agency's decision to vacate the Danielson Center in December.
 - **Fiscal Update** – Guy Saporito, EWIB's Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, reported that the Board's 2017-18 revenue availability was in-line with the May forecast. He also informed the group that the EWIB's 2016-17 operational expenses were 5% under budget *vs* a forecast of 4%. Finally, from a revenue perspective, Mr. Saporito presented that in the fiscal year just completed, EWIB achieved the highest recognized revenue in its organizational history, closing the year up 17% from prior year, and 36% from levels five years earlier.
 - **New Considerations** – Mr. Beauregard shared that staff was requested by Pratt & Whitney and the Department of Economic and Community Development to discuss if building a pipeline for the Aerospace sector was possible. The initiative would utilize similar core elements as the Manufacturing Pipeline. If approved, the program would be overseen by EWIB in coordination with the Hartford & New Haven WIBs. The Executive Committee will discuss this matter once more info is received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

▪ **Performance, Accountability, & Planning Committee**

- **Joint Manufacturing/Design Pipeline Meeting Report** – Manufacturing Pipeline Sub-Committee Chairman Murphy reported that the group held a joint meeting with the Design Pipeline Workgroup on Aug. 31st where they were updated on the status of both pipelines.
 - **MANUFACTURING PIPELINE** – Interest in the program remains strong by both jobseekers (4,351 web portal registrants) and employers who view the Pipeline as a new hiring channel (500+ hires from portal registrants). The program's job placement rate is 94%. Twenty training classes have completed. Training funds are expected to be exhausted in the 1st quarter of 2018 (~6 months ahead of schedule) due to the high demand for the classes. Mr. Beauregard noted that Electric Boat presented their workforce plan to the CT State Colleges & Universities

last week where they revealed the results of an internal study to show that Pipeline candidates had high retention rates at the company. Mr. Jewell corroborated the high retention rate of trainees hired to-date at his company as well.

- **DESIGN PIPELINE** – First cohort was completed with 17 of the 18 graduates hired by EB. A second class began Sept. 11th with 18 students, and a third class is planned for later this year.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the Joint Manufacturing/Design Pipeline Meeting Report, as presented (**MONAHAN/BUTLER**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

- **Healthcare Pipeline Sub-Committee Report** – Sub-Committee Chairman Vlaun reported that the group met on Sept. 20th where they received an update on the Health Professions Opportunity Grant (*HPOG*) performance to show that 252 individuals enrolled in the program, 224 started training, 141 completed training, & 71 gained employment (*rates range from \$11-\$23/hour*). The strong performance to-date has resulted in Year 3 funding for the grant (*\$1.5 million*). The Sub-Committee also self-administered a survey to show important competencies & growth occupations in the healthcare sector. Finally, the group discussed the potential to implement a Healthcare Pipeline with core elements similar to the Manufacturing Pipeline (job portal, assessment tool, job-specific training classes). It was determined that employer hiring demand & funding must be established prior to moving forward with these elements. A **MOTION** was made to accept the Healthcare Pipeline Sub-Committee Report, as presented (**BUTLER/GOLD**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Resolution EWIB-17-09** – A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolution EWIB-17-09, as presented (**MONAHAN/MURPHY**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (**MONAHAN/VALLIERES**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board Secretary James S. Butler, by Executive Assistant, Sheila R. Taurianen.