



MINUTES
EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018
8:00 A.M.

- Members Present:** Sam Agnello; Ray Coombs, Jr.; Tony Cronin; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Deborah Monahan; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Patrick Reuss; Caleb Roseme; Darlene Serra; Lisa D'Abrosca; Mel Olsson; Kelli Vallieres; Carlee Drummer; Marcy Reed; Lisa Arends; Nancy Cowser; & Jessica Corneau.
- Staff Present:** John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.
- Others Present:** Ayanti Grant, Andrea Messenger, Denise Collins, Bibi Amin, Dan Urtz, Mary Ellen McCarron, CT Sen. Cathy Osten, CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman, & Erica Moser.
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Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Hutchins called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and explained that Chairman Jewell would be arriving later in the agenda. Mr. Hutchins formally welcomed new Board members: Sam Agnello, *Foxwoods Resort Casino*; Nancy Cowser, *SouthEastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer)*; Tony Cronin, *Charter Oak Federal Credit Union*; Lisa D'Abrosca, *AFT CT Local 5049 at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital*; Mike O'Connor, *Dominion Energy*; Michael Phelps, *Sonalysts*; and Caleb Roseme, *Assured Quality Homecare*. He also welcomed Ayanti Grant representing U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's (2nd Dist.) office, CT Sen. Cathy Osten (19th Dist), CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman (37th Dist.), and Erica Moser (*The Day*).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sen Osten stated that the General Assembly will be taking up the state's third casino during the upcoming session and requested the Board's support of the initiative. She noted the failure of the initiative would have a negative impact on the workers at the two casinos & businesses both regionally & statewide.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2018 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*HIBBARD/OLSSON*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Apprenticeship Connecticut Initiative (ACI) Letter** – The CT Workforce Development Council (CWDC), comprising CT's five (5) Workforce Development Boards, created a letter of support urging the Governor to place the Initiative (*modeled after EWIB's Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative*) on the Bond Commission's agenda for funding approval. Mr. Beauregard noted that it is rumored that the first installment of \$5M is on the December agenda of the Bond Commission.

CETC REPORT

EWIB Representative, Deb Monahan reported that CETC met on October 19th. The next meeting will be held December 6th.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **EWIB Initiatives Review** – Mr. Beauregard informed the group that now that the federal Workforce Innovation Fund grant ended, the independent third party evaluator begins their final evaluation of the program. The evaluators will be looking into the following areas:
 - 1) **Did the Pipeline model facilitate new worker growth?** Yes. EWIB's Pipeline model evolved into a steady stream of workers which facilitated new worker growth for the region.
 - 2) **Did the program assist residents of Eastern CT and CT in general?** Yes. The overwhelming number of job placements assisted residents of CT (89%), of which 85% are from Eastern CT.
 - 3) **Did the prototype develop the "green" workforce it targeted?** Yes. 80% of participants placed into employment had no prior manufacturing experience.
 - 4) **Did the prototype positively impact the employers it targeted?** Yes. Participating employers (180+) reported experiencing 50% lower on-the-job training time and attrition in the MPI candidates. Through the program, economists estimate 3,000+ direct & indirect jobs were created, resulting in ~\$100 million in annual wages.
 - 5) **Did the prototype provide new career paths for participants?** The program partnered with CTDOL's Office of Apprenticeship Training & has issued 600+ pre-apprenticeship certificates in several trade disciplines.
- The Norwich/New London Labor Market Area experienced a 12% growth since 2015 in the Manufacturing sector, the largest in the state. EWIB's strategy to deal with this includes: 1) provide user-friendly enrollment through our website's portal; 2) ensure employer involvement to screen/assess applicants; 3) identify transferrable skills through our American Job Centers (AJCs) for candidates with no formal experience; 4) assign training budgets to increase skills of "green" workers; 5) emphasize career pathways through our partnership with the CTDOL Office of Apprenticeship Training; and, 6) overhaul traditional job search processes.
- Although the federal WIF grant has completed, thanks to funding from the state and local philanthropic organizations (*Gawlicki Family and Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundations*), the MPI program will continue ~ with 11 classes scheduled to graduate between now and May 2019.
- **New High Schools Signing On To YMPI** – Mr. Hill reported on the outcomes of the pilot Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI) held at Norwich Free Academy (NFA) this summer. The program completed with a strong placement rate and feedback from participating employers and the students. As a result of the generous \$450,000 donation from the Gawlicki Family Foundation & positive results from the NFA pilot, EWIB plans to expand the YMPI program to three high schools each year for the next three years. Since the start of the school year in September, EWIB has received strong responses from local schools requesting to participate. To-date, nine high schools have expressed the desire to participate in the YMPI.
- **Gov. Elect Lamont Meeting** – Chairman Jewell reported that prior to the November election, U.S. Rep. Courtney facilitated a meeting with the Governor-elect to discuss the MPI. The meeting was hosted by and included seCTer and the New Haven WIB as well. The discussion highlighted the MPI program's success as well as the interest in other WIBs to incorporate the MPI to their region. Mr. Beauregard noted that the Governor-elect and his staff gave positive feedback to the concept.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Nominating Committee** – Committee Chairman Hibbard gave the Nominating Committee Report, which put forth the following slate of Officers:

CHAIRMAN:	Christopher Jewell
VICE-CHAIR:	Thayne Hutchins, Jr.
SECRETARY:	James S. Butler
TREASURER:	John Murphy

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 2019 EWIB Slate of Officers, as presented (*MONAHAN/COWSER*).
ACTION: Unanimously Approved.

- **Youth Committee** – Ms. LaBelle reported that the group met on Oct. 16, 2018 where they were briefed on the YMPI program and the \$450K donation from the Gawlicki Family Foundation. To-date, nine schools have expressed interest in participating in the program, with the understanding that the goal is to have the schools embed the program into their curriculum. A **MOTION** was made to accept the Youth Committee Report, as presented (*HIBBARD/VALLIERES*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Jewell noted that the Board will be working towards launching a pilot Healthcare Pipeline in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Resolution EWIB-18-15** – The Resolution authorizes the Chairman to execute the WIOA Governor's Reserve Funds contract with the CT Department of Labor. A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolution EWIB-18-15, as presented (*MONAHAN/AGNELLO*). **ACTION:** Approved with Arends abstaining.
- **Conflict of Interest Statements** – Board members are asked to complete & return their Conflict of Interest Statements to Sheila Taurianen.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

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