



MINUTES

EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING **Tuesday, January 24, 2023** **8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Chris Bachant; Jim Butler; Patricia Feeney; Nicole Galo; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Susan Kocaba; Linda Ladas; Andrew McKillop; Deborah Monahan; Courtney Murphy; Michael Phelps; *Tina Rice*; *Jonathan Richmond*; Caleb Roseme; & Paul Whitescarver.

Staff Present: Michael Nogelo, Guy Saporito, Carol LaBelle, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: Laura Baker, Denise Collins, Kristin Hempel, Lyn Lawrence, Andrea Messenger Wright, Kevin Ryan, Denise Spellman, Kelli Vallieres, Cyndi Wells, & Steve Wolf.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the November 22, 2022 EWIB Board of Directors meeting (*BUTLER/WHITESCARVER*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Jewell introduced Michael Nogelo as EWIB's new President/CEO, & Mr. Nogelo provided a brief overview of his experience and expressed his excitement about joining EWIB.

Mr. Nogelo covered the following items:

- **GNACC Award** – Mr. Nogelo announced EWIB has been selected at the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce's Non-Profit of the Year recipient for 2022. The award will be presented by EWIB Chairman Chris Jewell during the Chamber's Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet on Jan 26th. Mr. Nogelo will be accepting the award on behalf of EWIB.
- **State High School Healthcare Careers Plan** – EWIB provided input on the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) draft plan to encourage high school students to pursue careers in the healthcare sector.
- **Westminster Tool Event** – Mr. Nogelo and Mr. Jewell attended a Westminster Tool press event on Jan. 19th which announced the company's \$100,000 grant award of one of three beta testers of 3-D metal printer nationally. The event included a live demonstration and tour of the facility.
- **Center for Housing Equity & Opportunity in E/CT** – Mr. Nogelo expressed EWIB's support for the Community Foundation of E/CT's newly formed regional Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity.

OWS/Gov's WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT

Chief Workforce Officer Kelli Vallieres updated the group on CareerConneCT (www.ct.gov/careerconnect), noting that more than 1,700 people have entered the statewide, online portal since the soft launch in November. The program is collaborative effort, which currently offers ~50 courses which are part of 19 various pipeline programs. She noted that she would like to build out the CareerConneCT portal's reporting capabilities to report workforce system outcomes for programs beyond just CareerConneCT. She noted the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) is in the process of contracting with the federal government for their Good Jobs Challenge grant award.

A brief discussion took place about the importance of developing an early childhood workforce pipeline.

CHAIRMAN'S/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **President's Presentation** –
 - **Themes from Initial Conversations** – Mr. Nogelo has met with each of the EWIB staff one-on-one to discuss their role, strengths, their view of EWIB's purpose and values, and opportunities for improvement. He noted that he was impressed with the staff and found a strong consensus about EWIB's purpose: helping workers prepare for jobs to improve their quality of life, ensuring employers have access to workers needed for their companies to thrive, and supporting the region's economic vitality. Many staff said that EWIB's core values and strengths include integrity, teamwork, partnership, efficiency, nimbleness, innovation, & continuous improvement. Mr. Nogelo is also in the process of visiting the region's three American Job Centers (AJCs) and speaking to partner staff, and plans to hold informal focus groups with AJC customers in February. He has been meeting weekly with EWIB senior leadership to identify, prioritize, & plan improvement activities emerging from these conversations.
 - **CareerConneCT Portal Launch** – EWIB has coordinated the creation of a statewide web portal for CareerConneCT under a \$1.78M contract with the State of Connecticut. The portal held a soft launch Nov. 17, 2022, with a full launch held Dec. 12, 2022. More than 1,700 people have signed up on the portal since its November 17 soft launch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Executive Committee** – Chairman Jewell informed the group that the Committee met on January 9, 2023 where they were updated on a State MPI funding request, EAMA Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP) support, & an Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) Workforce Development Workshop, as well as:
 - **FY22 Audit** – Guy Saporito reviewed EWIB's FY22 Independent Auditor's Report by Doherty, Beals, & Banks, P.C., reporting that the audit contained no findings.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, EWIB achieved record revenue (*on an adjusted basis*), of just over \$11.03M, with total expenditures coming in at ~\$11.26M. He noted a decrease in net assets (~\$4,300) due to the financial market's decline, impacting the Board's Schwab investment account. EWIB's general & administrative costs (5.86%) declined on a percentage basis.

EWIB's FY22 revenue (\$11,033,375) was composed of funding received from state (54%), federal (45%), & private/other (1%) sources. EWIB's FY22 expenditures were presented into four categories: pipeline & career pathways (41.2%), adult programs (35.4%), youth programs (17.5%), and general administration (5.9%).
 - **EWIB Board Resolutions** – Mr. Saporito reviewed the two resolutions with the Board: EWIB-23-01, a grant with the CT Dept. of Labor (CTDOL) to fund a substance use navigator located at the American Job Centers-East, and EWIB-23-02, a contract with CTDOL utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funding from OWS for youth programming (02/01/23 - 01/31/25).

A **MOTION** was made to accept the Jan 9, 2023 Executive Committee Report, including the PY22 Audit and EWIB Board Resolutions EWIB-23-01 & EWIB-23-02, as presented (**WHITESCARVER/LADAS**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

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