



MINUTES
EWIB VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: *Kylee Carbone; Tony Cronin; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Andrew McKillop; Travis Monroe; Andrew Bond; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; Jeff Beadle; Pat Feeney; Deborah Monahan; Kelli Vallieres; Mary Ellen Jukoski; Marcy Reed; Jessica Corneau; & Linda Ladas.*

Staff Present: Mark Hill, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, Sheila Taurianen, & Amanda Nagle.

Others Present: Ayanti Grant, CT Sen Cathy Osten, CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman, CT Rep. Tammy Nuccio, CT Rep Kevin Ryan, Mayor Keith Hedrick, First Selectman Mike Urgo, Carol Williams, Kathleen Heller, Jody Lefkowicz, Kippie Martin, Erica Moser, Denise Spellman, & Cyndi Wells.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. & welcomed Dr. Andrew McKillop, Pfizer Vice President of Pharmaceutical Sciences to the Board. He also welcomed Ayanti Grant (*U.S. Rep. Courtney's office (CT-2)*), Sen. Cathy Osten (*CT 19th Dist.*), Rep. Holly Cheeseman (*CT 37th Dist.*), Rep. Tammy Nuccio (*CT 53rd Dist.*), Rep. Kevin Ryan (*CT 139th Dist.*), Mayor Keith Hedrick (*City of Groton*), First Selectman Mike Urgo (*Town of N. Stonington*), & Carol Williams (*Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation*) to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman commented that she hopes that EWIB will be a critical partner in CT's U.S. Economic Development Agency "*FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge*" grant application. She feels that EWIB is the "*gold standard*" and could be a difference maker. EWIB CEO/President Mark Hill responded that EWIB has already begun to work with seCTer to support a regional economic development submission. EWIB recommended the application emphasize the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) as creating an economic competitive advantage. SeCTer has agreed with this strategy.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes from the June 22, 2021 EWIB Board Special meeting, as presented (*JUKOSKI/MONAHAN*). **ACTION:** Approved with Vallieres abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

Covered under Chairman/Presidents Report.

CETC/GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT

GWC Vice-Chairman Kelli Vallieres reported that the Council met in July where they discussed important workforce initiatives in progress across the state as well as Connecticut's application to the American Rescue Plan Act grant. She also mentioned that the GWC will have its next quarterly meeting in October where all are welcome to attend.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Hill congratulated EWIB Board Member Westminster Tool President Ray Coombs, Jr. and his team on being selected as one of six manufacturers in CT to receive the Additive Manufacturing Adoption Program grant in recognition of their innovation.

- **Correspondence** – Mr. Hill focused on the following items: First, he mentioned that the five workforce boards did not receive the National Defense Education Program grant submitted in January in which EWIB was the lead applicant on this submission. Second, Mr. Hill recognized the Electric Boat leadership team for its partnership in the MPI program as well as the CT Department of Labor and Office of Workforce Strategy in facilitating a statewide dialogue on the sharing of best workforce practices across the state. Third, Mr. Hill thanked U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy for his continued support of the MPI and workforce development. Finally, Mr. Hill recognized the EWIB staff and its partners for their continued support of regional employers to procure talent, citing a very recent request by U.S. Foods and Norwich Mayor Peter Nystrom.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program Review** – Mr. Hill highlighted the program was a success this year, serving 339 youth across 90 worksites. He recognized and thanked the program partners (*EASTCONN, New London Youth & Family Services, and Norwich Youth Services*) while noting \$55,000 in private foundation funding was received for this year's program. Those foundations were identified for the Board and recognized for their contributions.
- **Pipeline Program Updates** – Mr. Hill provided the following information about the three pipeline training programs:
 - **Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI)** – Reached a milestone by completing 100 classes to date. The program today has more classes scheduled than at any time in its history. A radio message was provided to the Board to demonstrate how the program is marketed in the community.
 - **Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI)** – Placed 124 youth in jobs to-date since its inception three years ago. This performance far exceeds the goal of 74 placements.
 - **Healthcare Pipeline Initiative (HPI)** – Begun training classes for personal care aides and sterile processing technicians. Program leadership is considering an expansion to other job functions such as CNA, EMT, medical assistants, medical coding, and pharmacy technicians.
- **American Job Center (AJC) Status** – EWIB Senior Director of Programs Carol LaBelle provide an update of the AJCs. The Centers were re-opened in June for in-person visits. So far, those visits have been much less than the historic levels of traffic. EWIB and its partners continue to offer virtual services to clients which will continue in addition to limited in-person services.
- **MPI – State Expansion Opportunity** – Mr. Hill and Dr. Vallieres together reported an effort of state officials and the workforce boards to expand the MPI program to the other four regions. Under this proposal, EWIB would serve as the administrator. A concept paper and budget has been prepared by the five workforce boards as to how this program would work and submitted to state officials. These documents are under review with preliminary feedback being very positive.

COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

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