



## MINUTES

### EWIB Board of Directors Hybrid Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

8:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Jeff Beadle; Nereida Braasch; Jim Butler; Jessica Corneau; Patricia Feeney; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Mary Ellen Jukoski; Susan Kocaba; Linda Ladas; Liz Li; William “Bill” Louis; Andrew McKillop; Michael O’Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; & Paul Whitescarver.

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

**Others Present:** Tony Benoit, First Selectman Kevin Cunningham, Kristin Hempel, Nancy Knutson; Lyn Lawrence; Kippie Martin; Andrea Messenger-Wright, Denise Spellman, Kelli-Marie Vallieres; Cyndi Wells; Leslie White & Carol Williams.

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chris Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Jewell thanked EWIB Executive Assistant Sheila Taurianen for many years of dedicated service and wished her well in her new professional ventures.

### ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2023 EWIB Board of Directors meeting (*WHITESCARVER/BUTLER*). **Action:** Unanimously approved.

### CORRESPONDENCE

EWIB President/CEO Michael Nogelo covered the following items:

- **CT Comptroller MPI Visit** – On October 16, CT Comptroller Sean Scanlon visited both Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) training sites – the CT State Three Rivers Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center (MAC) and the CT State Quinebaug Valley (QV) Advanced Manufacturing Center - and facilitated a roundtable discussion with several smaller Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP) manufacturers at EWIB. Comptroller Scanlon wrote a *CT Post* op-ed on October 23 highlighting the MPI as a short-term career training opportunity. Comptroller Scanlon’s team also held a November 2 virtual meeting with EWIB staff members to learn about EWIB’s Healthcare Pipeline Initiative.
- **Bloomberg Visit + Article** – Congressman Joe Courtney’s office organized a September 6 visit to the MAC by two reporters from Bloomberg working on an article regarding the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The October 24 article summarized the debate over WIOA reauthorization and utilized

the MPI as a case study of an effective WIOA-supported program and discussed EWIB's organizational structure. Congressman Courtney's November 10 e-newsletter about the visit praised EWIB and the MPI.

- **Junior Achievement Letter of Support** – EWIB submitted a letter of support on November 14 for a Junior Achievement of Southwest New England proposal to the US Department of Defense Industrial Base Analysis & Sustainment (IBAS) program to develop a K-8 shipbuilding pilot program in CT and RI. The letter expressed EWIB's expectation that EWIB will help coordinate the proposed project to ensure it complements and supports the MPI and Youth MPI (YMPI).
- **CT Department of Labor (CTDOL) Letter of Commitment** – Carol LaBelle reported that EWIB submitted a letter of commitment on October 17 for a CTDOL application for a USDOL Equitable Transition Models Demonstration Grant. If awarded, EWIB will partner with CTDOL to develop innovative activities that increase career development services, work-based learning opportunities, and employment for marginalized youth and young adults with disabilities. The proposed project will replicate EWIB programming identified by CTDOL as a best practice.

### **GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL (GWC) REPORT**

CT Chief Workforce Officer Kelli-Marie Vallieres shared highlights of Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) activities including: a) collecting stakeholder input for the new GWC Strategic Plan; b) CareerConneCT's statewide replication of the MPI model to train residents for job openings; c) industry-driven workforce development through RSPs; and d) promoting equity through investments in high-need communities.

### **CHAIR/PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- **Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) Grant** – Mr. Nogelo reported that EWIB was designated by regional stakeholders and OWS as regional lead in the manufacturing and healthcare regional sector partnerships (RSP) as part of OWS' \$23.9 million U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) GJC award. EWIB's GJC contract with OWS was executed August 30, 2023. EWIB has since finalized a new contract with ReadyCT to expand and strengthen the YMPI and grow the Youth Healthcare Pipeline Initiative (YHPI). EWIB also procured training providers for healthcare and was one of the first sub-grantees to enroll trainees.
- **Second Chance Employment Partnership** – Mr. Nogelo reported that EWIB, EAMA RSP, and the CT NAACP Million Jobs Campaign (MJC) signed a memorandum of understanding that describes roles and responsibilities for a partnership to prepare justice-affected individuals for careers in manufacturing. EAMA RSP members will volunteer for the initial cohort and will receive technical assistance to support participant and company success. A press release will announce the partnership and enrollment opportunity when the NAACP has hired program staff and all partners are prepared to launch. The partnership will increase career pathway opportunities for justice-affected individuals and expand the pool of trained candidates and decrease turnover for manufacturers while creating a sustainable model for future partnerships to serve underrepresented populations.
  - Liz Li inquired if there is a participation goal.
  - Michael Nogelo responded that the MJC in Hartford and New Haven has enrolled over 1,000 participants over the last year and a half, but we expect smaller numbers in Eastern CT.
  - Paul Whitescarver suggested that mental health supports may be needed to support ongoing participant success.
- **Strategic Pillars Update** – Mr. Nogelo stated that the Executive Committee did not meet in November to review drafts of the revised EWIB mission statement and vision statement, which are proposed to reflect the organization's strategic direction more clearly and concisely for the benefit of staff, Board members, and outside parties (including funders). The draft statements will be reviewed by the Executive Committee during its January meeting and presented to the Board at the January 23 meeting.
- **MPI Portal Privacy Notice & Consent** – Guy Saporito reported that EWIB drafted an MPI web portal privacy policy in response to feedback from Board members during the September Board meeting. The policy is currently under review by EWIB's corporate counsel and will be incorporated into the portal's consent statement.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **EAMA Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP)** – EAMA RSP Director Tony Benoit reported that the EAMA RSP now has over 40 members. EAMA RSP members will be invited to review and provide input on MPI curricula being documented and packaged for national replication by Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding over the next several months. 560 students from 24 schools and 24 manufacturers (including 23 EAMA RSP members) participated in the Explore Manufacturing Expo held at Dodd Stadium on September 28. CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley (QV) recently completed the two plastics courses that the EAMA RSP Plastics Working Group helped to develop. The second run is scheduled to begin in February. An EAMA RSP networking event and tour of Foster Corp. on October 25 had a great turnout.
- **Eastern CT Healthcare Partnership (ECHP)** – Mr. Nogelo reported that the full ECHP held an in-person meeting on October 13 at CT State Three Rivers. The Healthcare Education, Attraction & Training (HEAT) Action Team partnered with EWIB, CT State QV, and ReadyCT to host the first Northeast CT Healthcare “Inspire & Hire” expo at QV. 100 students from 10 high schools attended along with 15 employers. The HEAT Team plans to partner with the Greater Norwich Area Chamber to replicate the expo for Southeast employers in the spring of 2024. The Quality of Life Action Team has narrowed its focus and is now the Childcare Action Team, and will connect with the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Care and promote best practice sharing among RSP member companies. The Policy Action Team will work to inform and align with OWS’ healthcare-related legislative agenda. EWIB is using Good Jobs Challenge funding to contract Cross Sector Consulting to support EWIB and the other partner organizations with ECHP coordination, including reducing meeting frequency to promote employer engagement and sustainability.
- **Nominating Committee** – Committee Chair Mary Ellen Jukoski put forth the following slate of Officers:
  - **Chair:** Christopher Jewell
  - **Vice Chair:** Thayne Hutchins, Jr.
  - **Secretary:** Caleb Roseme
  - **Treasurer:** Michael Phelps

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 2023 EWIB Slate of Officers, as presented (**BUTLER/JUKOSKI**). **ACTION:** Approved, with Jewell, Hutchins, Roseme & Phelps abstaining.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Member Information Sheet/Conflict of Interest Statement** – EWIB Strategic Executive Assistant Stephanie Wisniewski reminded Board members to complete and submit the Board member information sheet, annual conflict of interest statement, and Board member demographic questionnaire by December 15.

## MEETING SURVEY & ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jewell asked participants to complete a brief online meeting satisfaction survey.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for EWIB Secretary Caleb Roseme by Stephanie Wisniewski.