

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
November 13, 2014
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Board Members

- **Present:** Commissioner Catherine Smith (Chair), Donald Balducci, Colin Cooper, Beverlee Dacey, Chris DiPentima, Danny DiPerna, John Harrity, John Zoldy
- **Call – In:** Todd Pihl
- **Quorum:** Yes
- **Others Present:** Ram Aberasturia, Tracy Ariel, Marica Dacey, Bonnie DelConte, Pat Downs, Barbara Fernandez, Aaron Frankel, Elliot Ginsberg, Jennifer Herz, Laura Jaworski, Karla Lindquist, Kathy Marioni, Carmen Molina-Rios, Deb Russo

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine Smith at 12:33 PM.

- Welcome by Chair Commissioner Catherine Smith
- **Vote:** Approval of minutes from 10/14 meeting, motion by John Harrity, seconded by Donald Balducci, unanimously approved
- Review of Manufacturing Innovation Fund allocations by Chair Commissioner Catherine Smith
 - To date, we have committed (but not yet spent) \$9,130,000 of budgeted \$30 million fund
 - MIF not on November Bond Commission agenda
 - Commissioner Catherine Smith is working on proposal with Office of Policy and Management to get MIF funded.
- Update on Voucher Program by Carmen Molina-Rios
 - Program is ready to be rolled out once funds are available
- Workforce Development Strategic Funding Discussion
 - 3 subcommittees (Incumbent Worker Training, Apprenticeship Programs, Business Concierge) met previous to meeting
 - Review of Incumbent Worker Training subcommittee by John Zoldy
 - Will start with \$100,000 cap on 1:1 funding matches for businesses, may change in future
 - Fund to be administered by DOL through their existing incumbent worker training program, though these funds are restricted to manufacturers
 - **Vote:** \$7 million of fund to be allocated for incumbent worker training with a goal of at least, \$3 million to be used within first calendar year, funding must be used to train Connecticut employees in manufacturing skills, motion by John Zoldy, seconded by John Harrity, unanimously approved
 - MIF committee to receive monthly report including names companies, numbers of employees trained, cost of and type of training as they are spent. Carmen

Molina-Rios and Kathy Marioni to outline process for administration of incumbent worker training funding

- Review of Apprenticeship Program subcommittee by Danny DiPerna
 - Recommend enhancing current Department of Labor program
 - Request that \$3 million of fund be allocated for wage subsidies and curriculum development for apprenticeship program
 - apprenticeship program with an emphasis on stackable credentials
 - Discussion of different options that might be pursued
 - Subcommittee to meet again to define apprenticeship program and pre-apprenticeship program; funding allocation tabled until next meeting
- Review of Business Concierge subcommittee by Beverlee Dacey
 - Recommend a “one-stop shop” for manufacturing companies - website with simple prompts
 - Subcommittee to look at Department of Economic and Community Development’s Business Portal website
- Board of Regents Proposal by Tracy Ariel
 - Proposal to allocate some of MIF to Advanced Manufacturing Centers to create ability to conduct incumbent worker training, in the form of Community College courses, at manufacturing companies
 - Board of Regents to come to next MIF Advisory Board meeting to continue discussion of proposal

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Next MIF Advisory Board meeting on December 11, 2014.