



MINUTES OF THE EWIB MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Tom Burns, Pete Connair, Gene Harper, Frank DiFusco, Susan Hibbard, Jacqueline Korengel, Cynthia Lamb, Michelle Landry, Catherine Menounos, Andrea Stillman, Donna Weisenberger, Jim Butler, Shelly Giménez, Lindy Lee Gold, *Marge Valentin*, James LoMonaco, Valerie Marino, John Markowicz, Deborah Monahan, Susan Monteleone, Mel Olsson, Chris Paquette, & Dianne Williams.

Staff Present: John Beauregard, Carol LaBelle, Virginia Sampietro, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: Roger Mason, Cheryl Egan, Pat Dixe, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Keleigh Arian, Jeff Nelson, & Maria Pukas.

Call to Order

Chairman Burns called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m., and introduced the Board's newest member, Frank DiFusco, Corporate Recruiter for Day Kimball Hospital. He noted that Mr. DiFusco is replacing Pat Hedenberg as the hospital's representative.

The Board observed a moment of silence for the passing of CTDOL Commissioner Patricia Mayfield.

Public Comment

None.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

A **MOTION** was made to approve the corrected version of the minutes from the November 24, 2009 Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*Lamb/Hibbard*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CETC Report

Chairman Burns reported that CETC has been working with the State's five (5) Workforce Boards and the Office for Workforce Competitiveness (*OWC*) on the WIA Annual Report to the Governor, and is in the process of finalizing that report. He noted that Gov. Rell recently signed an Executive Order on literacy.

Mr. Beauregard noted that he & John Markowicz attended a DECD Public Hearing the previous night on the State's Economic Development Plan, which focused on, among other things, the importance of advancing technology. Related to this, he stated that the reauthorization of the federal Workforce Investment Act (*WIA*) currently taking place in Congress now is critical since the current legislation is very dated from a technological perspective. Ms. Marino stated that the State Department of

Education is also interested in WIA reauthorization, and is currently working with CETC on a white paper.

Correspondence/Communications

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the following items of correspondence:

- **Green Job Training Partnership** – Last week the State was awarded a US Dept. of Labor 3-year, \$3.36M State Energy Sector Partnership & Training Grant for “*Green Jobs*” training. CETC applied for the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (*Stimulus*) grant through the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. EWIB’s Chairman & CETC Representative, Tom Burns is Co-Chairing the Connecticut Green Jobs Partnership with John Mengacci.

Chairman Burns provided an overview of the grant by sharing the program’s vision/mission statement, “*to make Connecticut a world leader in the development of a workforce prepared for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and for jobs that clean and enhance the environment.*” Each of the State’s five (5) Workforce Boards will hire a “*Green Jobs Coordinator*” to provide project management for Regional Project Teams (*designed to coordinate regional implementation of green-related workforce investments*). Incumbent workers and un(*der*)-employed individuals are the target populations, with proposed training activities focusing on four (4) occupations & industries: **1) Building Analyst, 2) Green Manufacturing, 3) Clean Water Technician, and 4) Green Technology Training for Municipal Building Officials.** The program’s goal is to place 551 individuals into employment. A meeting is scheduled later this month to determine how the programs will be setup.

Chairman/Executive Director Report

Executive Directors Report

Commenting on a recent CBS poll that illustrated the rapidly growing pool of American workers sensing gaps in their workplace skills, Mr. Beauregard described the impact that the exhaustion of Stimulus funds for training will have in the region.

The Board has expended 93% (\$1,853,543 of the \$2,003,430) of the training allocation it received from Stimulus funding, providing 479 individuals with tuition and 877 individuals with on-line learning licenses to-date. However, EWIB has had to establish a waiting list, which currently stands at 700+ people for training funds in the region. This expectation of training accessibility is the challenge that the Performance, Accountability, & Planning (*PAP*) Committee will face as they begin procurement. To meet this challenge, the Board is working with the American Council on Education (*ACE*) to award credits for on-line courses that will apply for Community College credits (*like experiential learning credits*). ECSU and the other Universities in the State University System already recognize ACE credits. Work is currently underway to establish the regional testing centers as well as make the policies uniform statewide. In addition, funds will be shifted toward On-the-Job Training (*OJT*) in an attempt to increase job creation prospects through our Business Services Unit.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met last week where they discussed:

- **Performance Incentives** – EWIB met all 16 established performance standards and “*exceeded*” 14, resulting in a pool of incentive funds totaling \$88,812. This item will be brought for a resolution later in the agenda.
- **Audit Sub-Committee** – Reviewed and approved the Independent Auditor’s Report for the period ending June 30, 2009.
- **2010-2012 Procurement** – Discussed the challenges that the Performance, Accountability, & Planning (*PAP*) Committee will face during the upcoming procurement.
- **Prior Learning** – The Committee discussed a plan where the American Council on Education (*ACE*) would evaluate Metrix On-Line Learning courses for credit at the Community College level.
- **STEM Grant Virtual Center & Microsoft** – Microsoft has approached the Governor’s office, through OWC, with an offer to provide 9,000 free vouchers to unemployed CT residents, as part of the ‘*Elevate America*’ program. The STEM Grant Virtual Center (*website*) is being considered as the distribution method for rolling-out these licenses. One of the best assets of the virtual roll-out of the program is that users will be able to sign-on right from home, reducing any additional impact to our already overburdened *CTWorks* Centers.

- Compensation – The Committee accepted a recently completed compensation study from an independent contractor.

The Committee will examine additional information from the Executive Director on staff responsibilities & job descriptions. The Committee will meet again to discuss implementation of the study's findings.

Performance, Accountability, & Planning Committee Report

The Committee will meet on February 3, 2010 to review and approve the Requests For Proposals.

STEM Council

- Statement of Strategic Development Ad-Hoc Committee – The STEM Council will hold a meeting tomorrow (01/27/10) at the New London CTWorks-East Center, where the Ad-Hoc Committee will report-out on their work compiling a Statement of Strategic Direction based on work completed during the Regional Innovation Grant (RIG). A USDOL federal reviewer will sit-in on the meeting, while he is on-site reviewing the STEM grant.

Youth Council Report

Council Co-Chair Landry reported that the Youth Council RFP Sub-Committee met on January 8th to review & approve the Youth RFP (both In- and Out-of-School), which has been forwarded to the PAP Committee for their review & approval in February. It is anticipated that the RFP will be issued ~ Feb 4th.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- Resolution EWIB-10-01 (PY08 WIA Incentive Funds Grant) – A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Resolution EWIB-10-01, as presented (*Markowicz/Butler*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.
- CTDOL Commissioner – CTDOL Deputy Commissioner Linda Agnew has been named Acting CTDOL Commissioner by Gov. Rell, with the passing of CTDOL Commissioner Mayfield.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 A.M.

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