



REPORT OF
EWIB's FIRST WIOA ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
8:00 A.M.

- Members Present:** Tom Burns; Ray Coombs, Jr.; Karen Eichstaedt; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Lynn Iverson; Howard Jenkins; Chris Jewell; Cynthia Lamb; Darlene Serra; Jason Vlaun; Donna Weisenberger; Jeff Beadle; Deborah Monahan; Mel Olsson; Kelli Vallieres; Valerie Marino; Carlee Drummer, John Murphy; Lindy Lee Gold; Rhonda Mathieu; Marion Lynch; & Jim Butler.
- Staff Present:** John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.
- Others Present:** Richard Matters; Cathy Osten; Katrina Arnott; Pat Dixe; Joanne Semmelrock; & Suzanne Cimichowski.
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MEETING OVERVIEW

EWIB Executive Director, John Beauregard, announced that the Board was officially designated by the state as a WIOA Workforce Development Board at the Sept. CT Employment & Training Commission (*CETC*) meeting. Additionally, we just learned that EWIB & the State of CT were one of only six applications selected, nationwide, for the USDOL Workforce Innovation Fund grant in the amount of \$6M for EWIB's manufacturing pipeline concept.

Call to Order

Eastern CT Workforce Council of Chief Elected Officials (*EWIB CEO Council*) Chairman, Hon. Richard Matters (*First Selectman, Franklin*) called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. and asked each of the members of EWIB's Board of Directors to introduce themselves.

Appointment of Chairman Pro Tem

In the absence of officers as a result of the newly enacted federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (*WIOA*), EWIB CEO Council Chairman Matters asked for nominations from the floor for a Chairman *Pro Tem*. A **MOTION** was made to nominate Susan Hibbard to serve as Chairman *Pro Tem* (**BURNS & MONAHAN**) until the Board's formal elections are held at the Board's Annual meeting on November 24, 2015. **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

Chairman Pro Tem Hibbard took over running the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY PRO TEM

Chairman *Pro Tem* Hibbard asked for nominations from the floor for a Secretary *Pro Tem*. A **MOTION** was made to nominate James S. Butler to serve as Secretary *Pro Tem* (**EICHSTAEDT & MONAHAN**) to serve

until the Board's formal elections are held at the Board's Annual meeting on November 24, 2015.

ACTION: Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION:

- **Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act.** The newly enacted (7/1/15) federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) legislation continues to require that workforce boards be private sector led, and work in partnership with the region's Chief Elected Officials. The legislation emphasizes strong collaboration with employers and a workforce system that supports regional economies & workforce development.

Mr. Beauregard gave a presentation reviewing the Board's organizational structure & purpose, the Eastern CT regional labor market(s), service delivery, and upcoming challenges for the region. The Board will write its local workforce strategic plan later this year. The plan will focus on the manufacturing and healthcare sectors, improving jobseekers access to employment & educational services through technology, and providing employers with the resources they need to engage skilled workers.

Because of the diverse geography and limited transportation system in the region, as well as CTDOL's plan to only support two of the existing four American Job Centers (AJCs), a three AJC Center model has been under review with CTDOL for several years. This model would move the southern-most Center to a likely mid-point between Norwich & New London. This proposed model will be discussed in greater detail through the Board's committees after upcoming conversations with CTDOL.

EWIB's four (4) American Job Centers (AJCs) provide services to 11,000-14,000 visitors (4-5 visits each, on average) each year. At the height of "The Great Recession," there were seven (7) jobseekers for every job posted. That number has decreased to an estimated 1-2 jobseekers for every job posted. In 2014 the region's four (4) AJCs connected 5,466 residents to employment, resulting in \$260,000,000 in annualized wages

- **Financial Update** – Mr. Saporito provided an update to the financial activities that occurred over the summer, noting that May's revenue projections for State resources has been revised down \$337K to \$2.4M (primarily due to the change in DSS's transportation program). However, federal grant resources increased nearly \$6M to over \$12M (due to the acquisition of "two" new awards). For fiscal year 2014-2015 EWIB's operational expenditures came in at \$43,590 under budget, with recognized revenue coming in at \$8M.
- **Manufacturing Pipeline** – EWIB's Manufacturing Pipeline Program will provide manufacturing employers with the skilled workers needed to compete in a global economy. This initiative benefits from the strong involvement of Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA) and Electric Boat. While the Manufacturing Pipeline focuses on the short-term solution, there is a long-term need. To address this, EWIB, in partnership with the local technical high schools, Quinebaug and Three Rivers Community Colleges, EAMA, & EB has successfully applied for four (4) additional grants in addition to state STEP UP funds (STEM, Ready-to-Work, Job-Driven On-the-Job Training, & Sector Partnership). To-date, 725 placements have been made through these programs. Staff learned this morning that CT was also just awarded a \$6M Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) grant for EWIB's Manufacturing Pipeline model (one of only six awards nationwide).

Another key initiative in EWIB's Manufacturing Pipeline is the Early College Opportunity (ECO) Program, which provides high school students in New London & Windham with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma & Associates degree in 4-6 years' tuition-free. They also participate in a paid internship, and upon completion, step seamlessly into well-paying, in-demand manufacturing careers. The schools partner with Quinebaug & Three Rivers Community Colleges, Electric Boat, & EAMA. Over the summer the Board received a 4-year grant totaling \$160,000 for the program from the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation.

REPORT FROM APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

EWIB Board member, Dr. Kelli Vallieres, reported on her trip to Washington, D.C. where she participated in the ApprenticeshipUSA Summit on September 8th & 9th. Approximately 100 employers, colleges, universities, businesses, workforce boards, & industry partners attended the event where Vice President Joseph Biden & U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez were both keynote speakers. The event focused on identifying ways to increase apprenticeship as a training option. After

discussion, Board members agreed on the importance of apprenticeship, members also endorsed establishing a healthcare pipeline based on the region's current manufacturing pipeline model.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman *Pro Tem* Hibbard advised Board members to watch their e-mails for their committee assignments, which will be sent out prior to the next meeting (8:00 a.m., November 24th).

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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