



MINUTES OF THE EWIB MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Neil Blinderman, Tom Burns, Pete Connair, Frank DiFusco, Emmett 'Gene' Harper, Susan Hibbard, Jacqueline Korengel, Cynthia Lamb, Michelle Landry, Armelde Pitre, Andrea Stillman, Donna Weisenberger, Jeffrey Beadle, Jim Butler, Karen Eichstaedt, *Marge Valentin*, James LoMonaco, Marion Lynch, John Markowicz, Rhonda Mathieu, Iris Mellow-Barnes, Deborah Monahan, Mel Olsson, & Ross Tomlin.

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

Others Present: Lynne Murphy, Joan Carrasquillo, Andrea Messenger, Mark Paquette, Jeff Nelson, Pat Dixe, Mary Berry, Peter DiBiasi, Ellen Paul, & Alice Carrier.

Call to Order

Chairman Burns called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m., and welcomed Rhonda Mathieu, CTDOL Regional Director-Eastern CT, to the Board. Ms. Mathieu is replacing Christine Paquette as DOL's representative on the Board.

Public Comment

None.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the September 28, 2010 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*MARKOWICZ/LYNCH*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CETC Report

Alice Carrier, OWC, complimented the region's Adult Literacy Improvement Plan submission. CETC met with the State Department of Education & developed a matrix from the plans received from all five (5) of CT's workforce regions, & found several common themes. The Planning & Performance Committee will meet next week to review the plans, prior to forwarding them to CETC. A July 2011 implementation is anticipated.

The Transitions Committee met the day before to start discussing individuals transitioning from: High School-to-Work and College-to-Work, the meaning of those transition points, & how to ensure organizations are prepared to assist transitioning students. The Committee reconvenes in late January. CETC meets again Dec 9th.

Correspondence/Communications

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the following items:

1. **HUD Grant** – U.S. Rep. Courtney’s office issued a press release on October 18th announcing the region’s award of the \$225K federal grant. The funds will be used for the development & integration of plans for “*spurring*” Eastern CT’s regional economic growth, and will be administered by a consortium of five (5) lead partners (*WINCOG, (lead partner), SCCOG, NECCOG, SE/CT Housing Alliance, & EWIB*), along with 23 additional partners. Mr. Paquette and Mr. Butler were both thanked for their efforts securing the grant.
2. **SeCTer Site Tour** – October 7th seCTer hosted a site familiarization tour of Southeastern CT. At Sonalysts in Waterford, Mr. Beauregard provided a presentation on the region’s workforce development approach. The feedback from the event was positive.

Chairman/Executive Director Report

- **Financial Update** – Mr. Saporito provided a financial update, which included an expenditure report on the Board’s Operating Budget. The majority of the line items were in-line for the period, with the exception of those that are cyclical.

The Summer Youth Program, now complete, is a compilation of ARRA, TANF/JFES, & State funds, which required a cash match. EWIB exceeded the requirement with contributions totaling \$31,100 (\$3,500 Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, \$5,000 Liberty Bank Foundation, \$17,500 People’s United Community Foundation, as well as from area employers equaling \$5,100).

Executive Directors Report

1. **Federal Budget** – The upcoming “*lame duck*” session of Congress will need to take budget action via a continuing resolution. The next 6-months will be challenging on the federal level, hopefully without budget rescissions.
2. **Unemployment Extensions** – The latest round of Unemployment Insurance (*UI*) extensions expires Nov 30th. Federal legislators seem to agree that continuing the unemployment benefit tiers currently in place may be necessary, although there is concern that UI recipients turn down employment offers that are close to their benefits. The Board discussed the State of Georgia’s “*Georgia Works*” program, which allows up to 24-hrs/wk for 6 weeks of workplace training. The program allows participants to remain in-touch with the current needs & demands of the workforce. Mr. Beauregard stated that the program may be worth considering on a pilot basis.
3. **Adult Literacy Improvement Plan** – A streamlined review was provided. The Plan defines adult literacy:

“Adult Literacy encompasses reading, writing, math, and English language proficiency. It also includes knowing how to communicate, acquire information, think critically, solve problems, use technology, and work in teams so to be prepared for work, and post-secondary education.”

Educational resources (*Pell Grants, etc.*) are being exhausted on remedial education (~50% of English students are in developmental remedial work, & in the past 5 years at Three Rivers Community College ~83% of students were placed in some form of developmental remedial math of some form). The Plan outlines an effective, efficient way to address the needs of the *CTWorks-East* clients by coordinating with other partner agencies (*i.e., Adult Education, etc.*) to utilize a common testing approach, & thereby providing the post-high school education needed to continue to advance up the career ladder ~ all within the *CTWorks-East* system. Sen. Stillman stated she intends to share the information with the Achievement Gap Task Force when they reconvene in January.

Committee Reports

Performance, Accountability, & Planning Committee Report

Committee Chairman Markowicz reported that the group met on November 10th where they discussed several administrative items including:

- **Norwich CTWorks-East Facility** – Until the new Administration is in place, CTDOL will continue to hold the lease on a month-to-month basis. Once in place, staff will resume negotiations between agencies involved & the landlord, with the goal of CTDOL being the leaseholder of the facility, at a reduced cost.
- **Adult Literacy Improvement Plan** – An overview of the plan was provided. The work of the Plan’s Committee is anticipated to continue, and will be linked with the Board’s Regional Workforce Innovation Council’s

Foundational Skills Sub-Committee. Implementation is expected for ~July 2011. A **MOTION** was made to accept the Adult Literacy Improvement Plan, as presented (*EICHSTAEDT/LAMB*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

- *USDOL Monitoring* – The report's findings were reviewed. Several "Promising Practices" were identified, & findings all have been corrected, with the exception of Youth Council membership (*missing youth & parent of eligible youth*). Staff is in the process of correcting. USDOL will monitor the STEM program in December.

Nominating Committee Report

Committee Chairman Blinderman gave the Nominating Committee Report, which put forth the slate of Officers:

CHAIRMAN: Emmett 'Gene' Harper, *General Dynamics ~ Electric Boat Division*
VICE-CHAIR: Michelle Landry, *Lawrence & Memorial Hospital*
SECRETARY: Jim Butler, *SE/CT Council of Governments*
TREASURER: Andrea Stillman, *State Senator, 20th District*

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 2010/2011 EWIB Slate of Officers, as presented (*Monahan/Hibbard*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

Mr. Beauregard thanked outgoing Chairman Burns for the guidance, vision, & leadership provided during his tenure as EWIB Chairman. Mr. Burns will continue serving on the Board, as well as EWIB's representative on the CT Employment & Training Commission (*CETC*).

In-coming Chairman Harper continued the meeting.

Youth Council Report

Council Co-Chair Landry reported that the group will be meeting shortly after the new year.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the following EWIB Resolutions with the Board:

- *EWIB-10-20 (Authorization for Board Chair)* – Authorizes the incoming Chair to execute modifications to previously executed contracts. All modifications will be reported to the Board.
- *EWIB-10-21 & EWIB-10-22 (10/11 State Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program & 10/11 WIA 15% Gov's Reserve IWT Program)* – Previously approved by the Board, the grant amount has increased over 15%.
- *EWIB-10-23 (Mohegan Sun National Emergency Grant)* – Authorizes entering into a \$300K contract with CTDOL for a federal NEG, should it be approved, to serve recently dislocated Mohegan Sun workers.
- *EWIB-10-24 (Authorize Board Chair on EWIB Financial Accounts)* – States that the incoming Chair (*Emmett "Gene" Harper*) has been authorized as signatory on all EWIB Financial accounts.
- *EWIB-10-25 (2011 Transportation-to-Work Contract)* – The CT Dept of Social Services contract provides transportation to eligible JFES clients. It was noted that the program is being funded for 6 months only (*1/1/11 – 6/3/11*) amount is not yet available; however, it is anticipated to be ~\$369K.

A **MOTION** was made to approve Board Resolutions EWIB-10-20 through EWIB-10-24, inclusive, as presented (*MARKOWICZ/HIBBARD*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (*EICHSTAEDT/KORENGEL*). **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.