

CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 20, 2011
UConn Health Center, Farmington

MINUTES

Present

Donald Shubert (Chair); Ronald Angelo (for C. Smith); Rina Bakalar; John Barto; Claudette Beaulieu (for R. Bremby); Thomas Burns; Elliot Ginsberg; John Harrity; James Ieronimo; Robert Kennedy; Zdzislaw Kremens; Glenn Marshall; Lawrence McHugh; Sidney McLeary (for D. Esty); Michael Meotti; John Olsen; Raymond Oneglia; Norma Ortega; John Rathgeber; JoAnn Ryan; Paul Timpanelli; Lyle Wray; Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman

Others in Attendance: Governor Dannel Malloy; Wallace Barnes

Governor's Welcome and Comments

Labor Commissioner Marshall welcomed Governor Malloy and expressed appreciation to the University of Connecticut for hosting the meeting. Governor Malloy emphasized CETC's role as the chief policy body on workforce matters. With respect to building an effective talent pipeline and skilled future workforce, the Governor asserted that we must: ensure that systems are in place to provide the workforce with the skills needed to build a vibrant economy; align education and training investments with state economic and business growth strategy; eliminate duplication and make systems user-friendly; and that we cannot afford to have unfilled advanced manufacturing jobs at the same time we have a surplus of unemployed skilled workers. He called CETC to address these challenges and asserted that he would provide the requisite leadership, direction and support. He welcomed Donald Shubert as the new CETC Chair.

Following the Governor's remarks he and Commissioner Marshall presented Wallace Barnes with a gubernatorial proclamation of appreciation for his years of service as CETC Chair. The Governor assured Mr. Barnes that he valued the efforts that had been made and the recommendations produced by CETC in recent years and asserted that his administration intended to actually implement good strategies in the months ahead.

Commissioner Marshall thanked former CETC members for their service. He underscored the importance for both CETC and OWC to maintain their autonomy be effective and emphasized the Labor Department's commitment to support their efforts. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Shubert who invited members to introduce themselves informally.

In his informal remarks, Mr. Shubert began by echoing the Governor's thanks to Mr. Barnes. He emphasized the importance of the Governor's leadership. He stressed the importance of collaboration, cooperation and coordination among key stakeholders. Mr. Shubert proposed that CETC proceed with a sense of urgency. He noted his

expectation that CETC's work would be recognized at a national level for its innovation and impact.

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. McHugh, seconded by Mr. Olsen, the June 16, 2011 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered at the meeting.

Correspondence

Mr. Shubert reported on one item of formal correspondence since the June CETC meeting. On June 16 CETC authorized Mr. Barnes to send a letter to the Governor transmitting a paper by the Youth Committee addressing a professional development/capacity-building effort for youth development workers in Connecticut. Mr. Shubert reported that the letter had been sent on June 20.

Report of the Chair

Election of 2011-12 Officers

At Mr. Shubert's request, Mr. Rathgeber nominated Deborah Monahan to serve as CETC ViceChair for July 2011-June 2012. Mr. Ginsberg seconded. Mr. Rathgeber then nominated JoAnn Ryan to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the same one-year period, with a second from Mr. Ginsberg. No other nominations were offered. The vote in favor of both nominations was unanimous.

2011-12 Meetings Schedule

Mr. Shubert called attention to the 2011-12 CETC meetings schedule – November 3, January 12, March 29, June 7, September 20, and November 15 – included in materials emailed in advance of the meeting. He noted that the meetings would be held at various locations, to be determined.

Office for Workforce Competitiveness Report

OWC Executive Director Bakalar emphasized the need to achieve tangible success in the year ahead. She noted OWC's role as chief policy office on workforce matters and in providing support to CETC. She emphasized the importance of aligning all resources to support economic development and industry growth. Examples of the kinds of achievements to be pursued include: streamlining systems for small/medium businesses such that the workforce system serves as a genuine resource; assessing the skills of the state's talent pool to align workforce supply with jobs demand; assuring operational efficiency within all dimensions of the workforce system; and successfully taking effective strategies, programs and services to scale.

Updates

CT Workforce Development Council (CWDC)

On behalf of Connecticut's five workforce investment boards (WIBs), William Villano (Workforce Alliance, South Central WIB) gave an overview of the work of the WIBs and their priorities. He called particular attention to the strong workforce system in Connecticut that is simultaneously coherent at a statewide level and responsive to differing local priorities. He noted several recent significant issues impacting the system on the ground: the changing characteristics of the job-seeking customers (higher skills, longer work histories) using the services of the system; the fact that entry-level/low-skill customers are falling further behind the demands of the workplace; and the dramatic increase in the number of unemployed older than 50. He asserted that both the supply and demand sides of a skilled workforce and jobs creation deserve equal attention, that it is critical for CETC to function as a genuine policy body on behalf of the Governor, and that OWC has an important role in helping to align the various elements of the state's workforce (talent pipeline) system. CWDC will report regularly to CETC in the future.

In the ensuing discussion Mr. Olsen emphasized the need for a viable customized training program in Connecticut. He called attention to the recently announced job reductions at Sikorsky in Stratford. Mr. Shubert noted his intention to convene a work group to focus on that issue and requested Ms. Bakalar and Mr. Angelo to follow-up on the matter and report back on actions taken.

Campaign for a Working CT (CWCT)

Dr. Alice Pritchard provided an update on efforts by this statewide coalition, indicating that efforts would be made in the upcoming special legislative session to promote specific investments in key areas, likely to include: industry sector and workplace-based learning strategies; incumbent worker training; building the future workforce pipeline; addressing the long-term unemployed; investing in focused adult literacy strategies; providing paid work experience for low-skilled adults; and, expanding financial aid options. CWCT will report regularly to CETC in the future.

CT P20 Council

Board of Regents for Higher Education Interim Executive Vice-President Michael Meotti gave an update on the work of the P20 Council. He noted that the Council's efforts will result in the availability of longitudinal data that will allow local school districts (for the first time) to track the outcomes for high school graduates, beginning with the Class of 2004. Mr. Meotti reported on the upcoming regional workshops, October 26-28, convening educators and other key stakeholders to address the challenge of college and career readiness and the beginning of a statewide action plan. Mr. Shubert indicated CETC's interest in tracking and coordinating with these efforts.

Workforce Investment Strategies in Healthcare (WISH) Recommendations Plan

Dr. Pritchard called attention to the WISH report and recommendations that had been distributed for review in advance of the meeting and offered a brief chronology

of the planning process and highlights of the recommendations. On a motion by Commissioner Marshall, with a second from Mr. Oneglia, members voted unanimously to endorse the plan and recommendations, subject to final editing by staff, for submission to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Committee Reports

Youth Committee

Committee Co-Chair Jim Ieronimo reported that the committee met on September 14. Its two priorities are the proposed capacity-building effort for youth development workers and the summer youth employment and learning/youth first job initiative. Mr. Ieronimo spoke to the need to recruit new members to serve on the committee, particularly educators, employers and representatives of organized labor. The committee is also seeking to fill the vacant co-chair slot.

Planning and Performance Committee

Committee Co-Chairs Tom Burns and Lyle Wray provided a brief update. Mr. Wray suggested that the committee's upcoming work would focus on: mapping the workforce supply system; mapping the jobs demand landscape; defining critical success factors to aligning supply-demand; and developing a strategy map to achieve results in key areas of focus. He suggested that a Results Based Accountability (RBA) approach would be useful. Mr. Burns echoed the importance of measuring performance to achieve results that cut across individual programs and agencies.

CT Green Jobs Partnership

Partnership Chair Tom Burns referred to a brief status review of the State Energy Sector Partnership and Training (SESP) Grant included in their meeting folders. Ms. Bakalar reported on recent discussions with DEEP Commissioner Esty about opportunities to reinvigorate the Partnership to play a genuine leadership role in helping to develop and coordinate the state's green jobs strategy, noting that options would soon be clarified and recommendations reported back to CETC.

Other Business and Adjournment

Mr. Shubert reminded members of the orientation session scheduled for October 27, 9:00 a.m., at the Labor Department, details to follow [Note: Date subsequently changed to November 3 following CETC meeting. Location at CCSU.]. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.