

CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
Constitution Room, Memorial Hall
Central Connecticut State University
New Britain

MINUTES

Present

Donald Shubert (Chair); Rina Bakalar; Roderick Bremby; Patricia Downs (for Elliot Ginsberg); John Harrity; Carlton Highsmith; Robert Kennedy; Zdzislaw Kremens; Glenn Marshall;

Lawrence McHugh; Sidney McLeary (for Daniel Esty); Michael Meotti; Deborah Monahan; Norma Ortega; John Rathgeber; JoAnn Ryan; Catherine Smith; Lyle Wray.

Central Connecticut State University President Miller welcomed CETC members to CCSU.

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. McHugh, seconded by Commissioner Smith, the September 20, 2011 CETC meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered at the meeting.

Correspondence

Chair Donald Shubert reported that no significant items of correspondence had been sent or received since the CETC meeting of September 20.

View from Washington

Louis Mangini, Legislative Aide to Rep. Rosa DeLauro, gave an update on the national policy scene, acknowledging the presence of Rob Michalik from Rep. Murphy's office. Mr. Mangini addressed the Federal budget situation, status of the President's proposed Jobs Bill and opportunities to coordinate Federally funded infrastructure and transportation initiatives with workforce efforts. He noted that Congressional staff plan to communicate and coordinate effectively with CETC and OWC going forward.

Report of the Chair

CETC Reorganization

Mr. Shubert reported on efforts undertaken since the September 20 meeting to map out the CETC structure, organize the various committees and work groups, identify leadership and membership for each, and clarify charges and deliverables for each committee/work group. He reviewed the new CETC organization chart, distributed

at the meeting. Mr. Shubert identified the leaders for each committee/work group and reported that a draft scope of work had been prepared for each committee/work group. He noted that that staff would follow-up with the various co-chairs/co-conveners promptly to map out a schedule and workplan for each body, and that the committees/work groups would be convened shortly to get started on their respective assignments.

Update on Sikorsky Job Reductions

Labor Commissioner Marshall referred to the September 20 discussion concerning anticipated jobs reduction at Sikorsky in Stratford. He reported that he and Office of Workforce Competitiveness Executive Director Rina Bakalar had been in contact with leadership of the company and Teamsters Local 1150 and that the situation was still evolving but that efforts would continue to explore strategies to connect at-risk workers with new job opportunities where their skills will be well utilized. He noted that electricians and assembly-line mechanics appeared to be most vulnerable. He also spoke about the Job Matching initiative being undertaken in response to efforts pursued by Rep. Larson. The Labor Department's Mark Polzella (Director of Labor Operations/Employment Services) gave a brief report on efforts undertaken by the Talent Matching Task Force to develop effective strategies with immediate impact to connect skilled manufacturing workers with current manufacturing job vacancies.

Office of Workforce Competitiveness Report

Ms. Bakalar reinforced Mr. Shubert's description of the CETC reorganization and the importance of launching promptly the critical work that needs to get done. She noted that the restructuring had been conducted thoughtfully to maximize the contributions of all members and to avoid redundancy and duplication of effort. She reported on highlights of the Jobs Bill adopted in the October special session of the General Assembly. Section 30 of the bill requires the Labor Commissioner to report by January on a review of training programs, with recommendations on possible reallocation of resources to meet the needs of advanced manufacturing. Ms. Bakalar indicated that the work would be done quickly under the aegis of the new Advanced Manufacturing Work Group. She emphasized the importance of effective coordination of strategy and planning, particularly among the Labor Department, DECD and Higher Education. Ms. Bakalar provided an overview of the new **StepUp** program, intended to incentivize and support training and employment efforts among small manufacturers. She concluded her remarks with a brief preview of the upcoming 2012 legislative session.

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 **Pathways Back to Work** legislation proposed by Sen. Blumenthal, noting its components of job training for adults to fill critical vacancies, support for summer/year-round youth employ-

ment and competitive grants. The legislation proposes use of the existing workforce system as the framework to deliver services.

Campaign for a Working CT (CWCT)

Dr. Alice Pritchard reported briefly on efforts to get endorsements of the Campaign's 2012 legislative priorities, with a price tag of \$21 million to address critical priorities, including: industry sectors and workplace-based learning; incumbent worker training; future workforce pipeline; long-term unemployed; adult literacy; paid work experience; and, increased scholarships/student financial assistance.

Other Business and Adjournment

Mr. Shubert noted that the meeting would be followed immediately by an orientation for members. He concluded by noting that the next CETC meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2012 at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) in East Hartford.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.