

CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION

December 12, 2013

CT Institute for Primary Care Innovation
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center
260 Ashley Street, Hartford

MINUTES

Present: Donald Shubert (Chair); Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman (Vice-Chair); John Harrity (Secretary-Treasurer); Thomas Burns; Elliot Ginsberg; Gregory Gray; Raymond Oneglia; Frances Padilla; Sharon Palmer; James Parent; Stuart Rosenberg; JoAnn Ryan; Lyle Wray; Kathleen Marioni; Raymond Singleton (for Roderick Bremby); Susan Whalen (for Daniel Esty); Maureen Wagner (for Stefan Pryor).

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Harrity, seconded by Mr. Wray, the October 10, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

John Harrity called attention to news reports that the proposed Federal Budget compromise fails to extend emergency unemployment benefits beyond December 28, potentially impacting more than 20,000 long-term unemployed workers in Connecticut. Mr. Harrity suggested CETC communicate with Congressional leadership to express concern about the negative impacts of this decision. In the ensuing discussion, including guidance from Lt. Governor Wyman, members authorized Chairman Shubert to submit a letter on behalf of CETC encouraging the state's Congressional delegation to urge Senate and House leadership to promptly extend emergency unemployment compensation benefits up to 63 weeks.

Correspondence

Mr. Shubert reported on the October 21 letter from Governor Malloy appointing Dr. Gregory Gray, President of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, to serve as a member of CETC.

Governor's Report

Lt. Governor Wyman reported briefly that an additional 5,000 individuals had signed-up for health care coverage on the accesshealthct.com website in the past week and that enrollment via the exchange continues to move forward at a reasonable pace.

State Agency Updates

Labor Commissioner Palmer gave a brief update on several items, including three recent employer information sessions across the state, status of the STEP-UP program, increase in state minimum wage to \$8.70 and hour effective January 1, and the rollout of the new American Job Center system logo. Dr. Gregory Gray, President of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, reported briefly on the "Excel CT" strategic plan being developed. It is anticipated that the community colleges will identify specific industry sectors with which to partner on workforce development efforts, engaging businesses as partners to support early college options for 11th and 12th grade high school students. He called attention to the P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) initiative in New York and the key role IBM played as a corporate sponsor of that innovative effort, noting that similar corporate partnerships with higher education would be key to success in Connecticut.

CT Workforce Development Council Update

On behalf of Connecticut's five regional workforce investment boards (WIBs), William Villano reported on the Council's 2014 policy platform and legislative agenda, featuring proposals to: build the future workforce pipeline by increasing state investment to \$5 million in this and future years; commit an additional \$10 million to support STEP-UP and expand eligibility to unemployed individuals regardless of town residency; restore core \$17.5 million in state support for JFES; invest \$2 million in Jobs Funnel programs; maintain current state funding in the I-BEST program for JFES participants, and invest \$2 million to engage additional low-skill adults in contextualized learning efforts. Ms. Padilla noted the importance of investing in effective program infrastructure. Mr. Shubert noted that he had communicated with the Governor's staff concerning these priorities.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Shubert noted that Stuart Rosenberg, President and CEO at Johnson Memorial Hospital, had been notified of his appointment to serve on CETC. He discussed the status of the Natural Gas Transmission/Delivery Work Group and efforts to align with the Jobs Funnel programs. Mr. Shubert reported on a recent discussion with John Rathgeber to explore using the existing Connecticut Energy Workforce Development Consortium to coordinate and monitor energy workforce initiatives, collaborating and communicating regularly with CETC on progress. A follow-up planning meeting is scheduled in early January. Members discussed the importance of linking workforce development and related training efforts with state economic development policy and investments. Mr. Shubert explained the need to adopt the 2014 CETC Annual Report for timely submission in January, and the desirability of consolidating current requirements for a separate annual plan and annual report, respectively. On a motion by Mr. Harrity, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg, the vote in favor of adopting the 2014 CETC Annual Report was unanimous.

Connecticut Economic Update

CTDOL Office of Research Economist Patrick Flaherty gave an overview of recent economic data and trends. [NOTE: The presentation is available for review at [WEBSITE DETAILS TBD](#)]. In the course of his comments, Mr. Flaherty noted that the national unemployment rate is slowly trending down and that the rapid rate of job vacancies and turnover in healthcare positions in Connecticut seems to be slowing. He noted that middle-skill jobs in Connecticut are stagnant, a challenge for the workforce development system, offset by growth in both high-skill/high-wage jobs and lower-skill/lower-wage jobs.

OWC Report

In light of the full agenda, Kathleen Marioni deferred on an extensive report. Ms. Marioni reported that she had met with Youth Employment Committee Co-Chairs Jim Ieronimo and Norma Ortega to plan for the work of that committee in upcoming months. She emphasized the evident importance of developing more job shadowing, work experience and internship-type opportunities for Connecticut students as a crosscutting priority.

Committee Reports

Allied Health Workforce Policy Board

Co-Conveners Frances Padilla and Stuart Rosenberg offered a presentation on the work of the Policy Board. Their overview provided background on the Board's evolution over the past decade, challenges facing the healthcare industry and factors impacting the healthcare workforce, changes in healthcare occupations and related workforce pressures, including educational challenges for current and prospective healthcare workers. They reported that the Board's 2014 Legislative Report will feature a total of

(For CETC Action 3.12.14)

eight recommendations across three major themes, addressing the need to: collect and strategically utilize healthcare workforce data; support the pipeline of new and incumbent healthcare workers; and, create and infrastructure to support the direct care workforce engaged in community care.

Career Advancement Committee

Alice Pritchard reported that the Committee had endorsed and was presenting for CETC adoption a final draft of its report “A Review of Contextualized Learning and Its Importance to Career Advancement for Adults in Connecticut”, including twelve proposed essential program elements for contextualized learning programs and services, and four recommendations intended to promote consistency in program offerings, funding and participant outcomes. She noted that the final draft of the report had been emailed to members for review on December 6. Mr. Shubert lauded the committee for its efforts and the quality of the report. On a motion by Mr. Harrity, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg, members voted unanimously to approve the report and recommendations.

Advanced Manufacturing Work Group

Co-Conveners John Harrity and Elliot Ginsberg reported that the Work Group met December 3 and that staff had reached out to CETC members representing chambers of commerce and business groups, manufacturing associations, WIBs, Community College Manufacturing Centers and Connecticut Technical High Schools Manufacturing Technology Cluster to get information from manufacturers about: current vacancies, corresponding skills/qualifications/experience, wages/benefits; challenges and effective strategies in filling vacancies; career pathways; and updating vacancy information. The group will examine results of employer surveys and information about companies on Manufacturing Centers Advisory Boards and Technical High Schools Manufacturing TTACs, to better understand current conditions to inform the workforce system, training programs, educators and policy makers, and draw manufacturers to programs and strategies that work well. The work group will reconvene in early 2014. Members discussed the significant impact that the increasing pace of innovation will have on the number and types of jobs in Connecticut’s advanced manufacturing sector in the near future.

Other Business and Adjournment

Following adjournment of the regular business meeting, Dr. Gregory Makoul, Chief Academic Officer and Senior Vice President for Innovation and Quality Integration at Saint Francis offered a brief overview of the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation, followed by a tour of the facility.