

CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION (CETC)

December 15, 2016

9:00 a.m.

CT Department of Labor – Conference Rooms A&B
Wethersfield

Minutes

Present: Donald Shubert (Chair); Elliot Ginsberg; John Harrity; James Ieronimo; Scott Jackson; Kathleen Marioni; Raymond Oneglia; Amy Porter; JoAnn Ryan; Catherine Smith; Lyle Wray; Peter Palermino (for Roderick Bremby); Alice Pritchard (for Mark Ojakian)

Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Wray, seconded by Commissioner Smith, members voted unanimously to approve the September 22, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted.

Correspondence

Chair Donald Shubert reported on a letter dated October 20, 2016 from U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Portia Wu, U.S. Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary Johan Uvin, U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration Acting Assistant Secretary Sue Swenson and Commissioner Janet LaBreck to Governor Malloy indicating that Connecticut had responded satisfactorily to issues raised in the June 29 notification letter and is prepared to move forward on implementing its State Plan.

Public Comment

At Mr. Shubert's invitation, Daniel Lessard, President & CEO of Spothook, provided an overview of a web-based talent recruitment and job-matching platform and a February 6-10 virtual career fair.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Shubert reported that the new CETC Committees are organized and have held initial meetings, and that information would be provided in upcoming Committee updates (below). He noted that OWC and CTDOL staff responsible for WIOA administration have been meeting with colleagues from other state agencies and the Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) to coordinate implementation. All await definitive guidance from USDOL and other federal agencies. Mr. Shubert stated that in lieu of a separate 2017 CETC Annual Plan (due January 31), the recently approved Unified State Plan would be submitted. He reported that the next two CETC meetings are scheduled for March 9 and June 14. CTDOL Director of Labor Operations Daryle Dudzinski reported on recent well-received efforts to reassign staff in the American Job Centers to expand workforce system services to UI customers.

CETC Committees

Co-Chairs Amy Porter and Alice Pritchard reported on recent efforts of the Service Design and Delivery Committee, noting that the initial Committee meeting was held on November 30. The Committee comprises CETC members and representatives of key State agencies, including those responsible for administration of WIOA programs and services in Connecticut, the WDBs, organized labor, community-based service providers and philanthropic organizations engaged in workforce development efforts. Its initial focus is on several WIOA requirements for CETC in its role as the State Workforce Board and various items in the Unified State Plan including: monitoring/oversight of One-Stop system design and service delivery implementation to ensure alignment and coordination. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 9:00 a.m. in the AJC at 3580 Main Street in Hartford. Next steps include: organizing customer-experience site-visits to One-Stop centers by a core team of partners. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 9:00 a.m. in the AJC at 3580 Main Street in Hartford.

Co-Chair JoAnn Ryan gave an update on the Business Engagement Committee, which held its initial meeting on November 17. Committee members are a mix of business sector CETC members and select representatives of: Pratt and Whitney; Electric Boat; IBM; Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium (BEACON); Insurance and Financial Services Cluster (IFS); Eastern CT Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA); Northwest CT Manufacturers Coalition; Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA); several regional Chambers of Commerce; and key State agencies and the WDBs. The Committee's initial focus is on several CETC requirements as the State Workforce Board and various items in the Unified State Plan. The Committee plans to develop an inventory of best practices for employer-led industry partnerships/sector strategies/career pipeline-pathways initiatives and to develop ideas about communicating that information efficiently to industry. It will also support a Spring 2017 Business Conference. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 1:30 p.m. at CTDOL.

John Harrity and Labor Commissioner Jackson reported on the work of the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) Advisory Board/Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) Workforce Development Committee, noting that MIF supports growth, innovation and progress of Connecticut's advanced manufacturing sector. MIF is administered by DECD with counsel from an Advisory Board that also oversees the state's IMCP initiative. The IMCP mission is: to establish Connecticut as a center of manufacturing innovation excellence; strengthen Connecticut's manufacturing supply chain; and ensure continuous development of Connecticut's skilled manufacturing workforce. They noted that the focus of MIF workforce development efforts to date have been to: invest in incumbent worker training program - coordinated by CTDOL; increase registered apprenticeship in manufacturing - coordinated by CTDOL; and expand the youth manufacturing talent pipeline through Dream It, Do It - coordinated by CCAT. They further reported that the more than \$30 million in MIF dollars strategically invested so far – largely to support workforce development improvements – has dramatically improved the competitive posture of the state's advanced manufacturing sector and helped to convince manufacturers to remain in Connecticut. Commissioner Smith reported that the State's \$70 million investment in various initiatives included within the IMCP framework has leveraged more than \$1 billion in private resources. Commissioner Jackson noted that we in Connecticut do a good job of "beating ourselves up" while failing to recognize and acknowledge the often innovative and effective work that we do to address strategic challenges and opportunities. Mr. Harrity concluded by reporting on the recently endorsed five-and-a-half year contract between the International Association of Machinists and Pratt & Whitney, praising State efforts to improve the competitive environment in Connecticut as a major contributing factor to the company's decision to retain operations in Connecticut.

Co-Chairs Lyle Wray and Scott Jackson noted that the Planning and Performance Committee met November 21. Committee membership comprises a mix of CETC members and representatives of key State agencies – including those directly responsible for WIOA administration, data collection and reporting, the WDBs, and selected philanthropic organizations, including United Way of Connecticut, Melville Trust and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Committee's initial focus is on several WIOA requirements for CETC as the State Workforce Board and various items from the Unified State Plan, including: monitoring/reporting on workforce system coordination, resource coordination, effectiveness; fiscal and management accountability information system; One-Stop system technology and data systems alignment; statewide labor market information system; criteria for WDBs to assess, promote continuous improvement of and certify One-Stop centers. The November 21 meeting included presentations by several committee members addressing efforts to develop information systems and procedures capable of meeting WIOA's data collection, analysis and reporting requirements across partner programs.

CT Workforce Development Council Update

Mr. Shubert reported that in Bill Villano's absence Alex Johnson, President & CEO of Capital Workforce Partners (CWP) would provide a status update on behalf of the WDBs. Mr. Johnson noted that the WDBs have embraced the cooperative/collaborative approach to WIOA implementation, sharing responsibility

and commitment with CTDOL and State agency partners to move the workforce system forward as best and quickly as feasible. He applauded Mr. Dudzinski's report on CTDOL's efforts to reassign additional staff into the American Jobs Centers to provide front-line services to customers. He reported that the WDBs are working with CSDE on the impending RFP process to allocate WIOA Title II adult education and literacy funding to promote alignment with WIOA Title I program services.

Mr. Ieronimo reported on work underway in each of the local workforce areas to develop and implement WIOA services for youth customers, and the challenge WDBs have had in committing funding for programs and services in the absence of governing regulations. He noted that WIOA youth programs feature contextualized/work-based learning with a sector focus reflecting established regional priorities. He asserted that Connecticut already has in place the elements of a youth-serving system and that we have a unique opportunity for creative linkage and innovation by connecting youth strategies with related initiatives, including 2GEN, Working Cities, etc., that pick up on individuals who at age 24 can no longer be served by WIOA youth funding. A discussion followed concerning the prospects of using CTHSS facilities "after hours" to serve more young people, particularly those enrolled in comprehensive high schools who have an interest in technical instruction offering career options. Commissioner Jackson noted that he would report these observations to his colleagues on the CTHSS Advisory Board. Ms. Ryan described recent innovative collaboration among Torrington High School, Oliver Wolcott Tech and Northwest CT Community College to align program offerings and opportunities.

Economic Update

In the interest of time the economic update was postponed to the March 9 CETC meeting.

Office of Workforce Competitiveness Report

OWC Executive Director Kathleen Marioni described the *State of Connecticut WIOA Annual Report July 2015-June 2016*, distributed at the meeting, noting that during the initial year of WIOA implementation the state had done well overall in meeting many of its workforce development goals. She reported that the CETC would sponsor a conference in Spring 2017, targeting a business audience, to provide information about available services, incentives, programs, requirements, etc. There will also be an educational piece for businesses on labor law compliance and workforce development partner programs. Mr. Ginsberg suggested that cybersecurity might be a compelling topic to address at the conference. Ms. Marioni reported that a new WIOA-related administrative policy (CETC/GP 16-01) concerning procurement of One-Stop operator services had been drafted and recently posted on the CETC web page.

Other Business

Peter Palermينو reported that DSS is working with CWP to map out collaborative actions to serve mutual customers efficiently, as a prototype for efforts with each of the WDBs and other local partners going forward. He reported on efforts underway to promote linkage between the philanthropic community and the WDBs to support strategically significant programs and services, and noted the growing numbers of refugees being served by DSS as a priority target population, with designated case managers interested in developing effective connections to workforce system programs and services.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.