

**Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 18, 2021**  
**Connecticut Department of Labor**  
**Office of Apprenticeship Training**  
**Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting**

**Meeting Call to Order at 1:33 p.m.**

**Roll Call**- Chairman/Commissioner Kurt Westby, Larry Vallieres, Frank DaCato, Paul Costello, Christopher J. Brown, Robert M. Berkmoes, Kelli Vallieres, Richard DuPont, Martin Alvarenga, Gregory Raucci  
All council members were present for full quorum.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** – motion to accept the previous meeting minutes of the November 19, 2020 minutes made by Frank DaCato, Seconded by Martin Alvarenga. Motion passes unanimously.

**Correspondence** - None.

**Public Comment** – Jonathan De Barros of Terryville, CT brought his apprenticeship concerns to the council. Mr. De Barros informed the council of multiple electrical contractors he has been employed with have not registered him in a timely manner and was occasionally assigned to non-electrical work. Mr. De Barros has been employed since 2016 and, if registered by his employers in a timely manner, would have completed his apprenticeship and be a licensed journeyman a year ago. Though in the electrical industry since 2016, Mr. De Barros states he has nearly 4,000 hours of registered OJT hours. Mr. De Barros thanked the council for giving him the opportunity to be heard on this issue, thanked his apprenticeship representative Owen Golding for his diligent assistance, requested the council recommend initiatives to rectify these areas of concern and is willing to being part of the solution for current and future registered apprentices.

\* Of note: The Office of Apprenticeship will be addressing Mr. De Barros' registered apprenticeship concerns with him as directed by Commissioner Westby.

**Presentation** - Emily Brash of Smoothstack Inc. presented to their newly developed I.T. Registered Apprenticeship to the council and a Q and A session followed. (See attached presentation slide deck)

**Apprenticeship Director Report** - Todd Berch reported that there are currently 1630 Employers and 6,510 apprentices. Since last report, 292 new apprentices have been registered, 200 apprentices have completed their programs, 106 apprentices separated without completion of their programs. Todd thanked his staff for taking on additional work assignments assisting the general public and other units at the CT Department of Labor during the pandemic. Commissioner Westby also thanked Todd and his staff for assisting with other units for many months during the pandemic and stated that staff would soon be returned and able to work solely in the Office of Apprenticeship.

### **Apprenticeship Partner Updates -**

- Pat Ciarleglio, CTECS Apprenticeship Education Consultant, reported to the council on the work apprenticeship staff Ross Hart has accomplished for adult apprentices and funding availed through a grant Mr. Hart administers.
- Council member Dupont reported on the partnership with OAT and the announcement of the MASC plastics program in Waterbury. Director Berch was one of the speakers at the recent ribbon cutting event.
- Council member Costello reported on ESAC conference being rescheduled due to the pandemic. Mr. Costello also thanked the director for a job fair referral to an upcoming Junior Achievement event.
- Federal OA Regional Director Bernie Trembl reported on the rescission of the previous administrations IRAP executive order and on the proposed labor secretaries confirmation hearing proceedings of Marty Walsh.

### **New Business -** None

**Old Business-** Discussion led by Council member Larry Vallieres- companies have requested the SAC recommend guidance regarding employers not properly registering apprentices. The companies making this request hire apprentices only to become aware previous companies have failed to register individuals as an apprentice. Companies claim it is punitive to the apprentice and new company alike and request exploring policy recommendations. After debate, a motion was made by Frank DaCato to form a sub committee in order to address these issues. Motion seconded by Paul Costello. Council voted approval unanimously.

Chairman Westby asked council members to email Director Berch if interested in serving on the subcommittee and he will appoint members to the subcommittee as ordered.

### **Good and Welfare -** None

**Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday May 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Location: To be determined

**Meeting Adjourned -** 2:55 pm

### **Recorder**

P. DePhillips