

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

June 28, 2019

9:00-10:30 AM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Plaza South Tower, Conference Room B, Hartford, CT 06103

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members Present: Beatriz Gutierrez, Don Balducci, Chris DiPentima, Beverlee Dacey
- Board Members via phone: Emir Redzic, John Zoldy
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Todd Pihl, Colin Cooper, Shane Eddy, Kelli Vallieres
- Stakeholders Present: Eric Brown (CBIA)
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez

#### **Minutes**

Beatriz Gutierrez opened the meeting at 9:20 AM. Ms. Gutierrez moved to have the April minutes approved. Chris DiPentima seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **House Manufacturing Caucus Briefing**

Carmen Molina-Rios discussed her involvement in the House Manufacturing Caucus briefing, namely Connecticut's collaboration with the existing 24 designated IMCP communities and its role as a member of the American Manufacturing Community Collaborative (AMCC). The AMCC is a grass root outgrowth of the IMCP efforts whose vision it is to achieve sustainability through economic growth, improved environmental performance, and job creation within a revitalized American manufacturing base through an alliance of communities with regional economic development initiatives.

She further provided information on The Defense Manufacturing Communities Support Program (DMCSP). The DMCSP is a program created by statute under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018, building on the IMCP to make long-term investments in "critical skills, facilities, research and development, and small business support" to address the urgent defense manufacturing needs pertinent to our national security. Though it is authorized under federal statute, there is no funding appropriated at this time and is under discussion at the committee level. Beverlee Dacey asked whether any of this is related to the President's apprenticeship program, to which Ms. Molina-Rios replied that it isn't, but that apprenticeship is extremely important to the administration. Several important questions were brought up, including "how do communities leverage federal dollars and work with the federal government?". Barbara Fernandez explained there are hurdles for the DMCSP to have a line item in the federal budget with a dollar amount.

The conversation shifted to discussing CT's thriving economic position thanks to several factors mainly related to our trade surplus in defense (the highest in the U.S.), the advanced manufacturing industry in the state, apprenticeship programs, and a general organizing governance effort that other states lack. The conversation ended with the next steps for the AMCC, which included meeting weekly to share best

practices, and monitoring federal grant opportunities with an immediate focus on the i6 in-kind challenge grant from Department of Commerce and Department of Defense.

### **Executive Session**

The chair, Beatriz Gutierrez requested that the board enter into executive session to discuss the following sensitive information and funding areas: College Connection Program and Incumbent Worker Training Program.

As a result of discussion during executive session, the following was voted upon:

- To allow for a no cost extension to the College Connection program for a period of 12 months from the current contract expiration date of June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Chris DiPentima motioned, and Don Balducci seconded. The motion was passed with the following voting no, John Zoldy and Beverlee Dacey.
- In addition, the chair requested a motion to provide an additional \$1.5 million for the Incumbent Worker Training Program. After some discussion, three board members voted no, Beverlee Dacey, Chris DiPentima, and Don Balducci. Two board members, John Zoldy and Beatriz Gutierrez voted yes and Emir Redzic abstained. The motion did not pass.

### **Meeting Closed**

Ms. Gutierrez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DiPentima seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gutierrez closed the meeting at 10:39 AM