

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

July Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

July 6, 2018

1:00 - 2:30 PM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room B, Plaza, South Tower
Hartford, Connecticut

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Colin Cooper, Don Balducci, Catherine Smith, , Emir Redzic, Shane Eddy,
- Board Members via phone: Todd Pihl, Kelli Vallieres, Chris DiPentima, John Zoldy
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Beverly Dacey
- Stakeholders Present: Eric Brown, Bernice Zampano, Shawn Dyer, Pete Finnegan, Mike Kozlowoski, Bonnie DelConte, Jeff Orzak
- Stakeholders via phone: Todd Berch
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Toni Karnes, Alec Binette, Sneha Jayarah

Minutes

Catherine Smith opened the meeting at 1:05 P.M.

Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept the April Minutes. Colin Cooper moved to accept the April meeting minutes. Emir Redzic seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DECD Audit Findings- Catherine Smith gave an overview on the audit findings. She noted that inconsistencies were found in the data, relating to the use of multiple sources for information, and DECD is addressing those discrepancies.

Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Funding- Commissioner Smith stated that \$50 million in funding was shifted from DECD to DOL and that the DECD will be working with DOL. Colin Cooper noted that it is important to know which programs the \$50 million would fund noting that that DOL could take over the funding for the Apprenticeship Program. Commissioner Smith stated that she would invite Commissioner Kurt Westby to the next meeting. She then proposed discussing what the next action should be at the August meeting.

Electronic Vote IWT & YMA-

- **IWT Vote** - Commissioner Smith reviewed the vote for the motion to provide Department of Labor additional funding for the MIF Incumbent Worker Training Program in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 passed on May 25, 2018.
- **YMA Vote-** Commissioner Smith reviewed the vote for the motion to provide CCAT additional funding of \$42,678 passed on April 18, 2018. A motion was asked to provide CCAT additional funding passed on April 18th. The following comments were asked to be put into the formal record for this vote:

- **Kelli Vallieres:** “I vote yes to this motion with the note that we should collect data regarding the outcomes of the programs. Since these students are in middle school, how many participants enrolled in tech school or took tech classes in high school? This program has been around for a long time. Can we send out surveys to participants that have entered college and or the workplace to see what career path they have taken? There are many great programs that don't end up with the expected outcomes.”
- **Beverlee Dacey:** “I'm voting No.”
 “Reason #1 - we have no metrics on the impact of these programs to manufacturing workforce development
 Reason #2 - the funding request associated with this request do not balance with the funding request for these numbers.”

CT Center for Excellence for Composite Manufacturing (CCCM) Vote- Pete Finnegan of Pratt & Whitney discussed multiple changes to the CCCM program. These changes include the change in structure, changing the loan into a grant. Another change was in how the money would be dispersed. Phase 1 would occur 30 days after being approved and phase 2 is now planned to be delivered in 2020 instead of 2021. In addition, before the money can be released, a business plan needs to be sent out.

After some discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion for these changes to be accepted. Todd Pihl moved and Colin Cooper seconded. Shane Eddy abstained. Vote is passed.

Pratt and Whitney Cybersecurity- Shawn Dyer presented some of the current threats companies are facing regarding cybersecurity. He discussed the importance of understanding what the threats could possibly be and the need to “get ahead of those threats”. He also discussed the need to reinforce the supply chain against these threats and the utilization of a “back to basics approach” when looking for a solution. He emphasized awareness and communication, starting early during the contracting process and leveraging industry relationships as a way to be proactive. After some discussion, Bonnie DelConte of CONNSTEP noted that they had targeted some sophisticated companies and were tying cybersecurity into their quality management training.

College Connection Update- Mike Kozolowski gave a review on the College Connection Program (CCP), and shared that they were on track for their yearly target along with having doubled the number of college connections this year. In addition they are well below the anticipated transportation costs and have already added 2 new colleges to CCP.

MIF Strategic Session- Commissioner Smith asked for a motion that the MIF Board hold another Strategic Planning Session. Colin Cooper so moved. Emir Redzic Seconded. She then asked Carmen Molina-Rios make arrangements for a 2018 Strategic Planning Session.

Executive Session – Commissioner Smith then dismissed the meeting attendees and the Board went into Executive Session which ended at 2:33.

Other Business –

Commissioner Smith requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Colin Cooper motioned and Emir Redzic seconded the motion. The motion passed. Commissioner Smith closed the meeting at 2:35pm