**Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

August 1, 2019

9:00-10:30 AM

**(via Conference Call)**

**Attendance**

* Board Members Present: Beatriz Gutierrez, Don Balducci, Chris DiPentima, Beverlee Dacey, John Zoldy, Colin Cooper, Kelli Vallieres
* Quorum: Yes
* Absent: Todd Pihl, Emir Redzic, Shane Eddy
* Stakeholders: Ron Angelo and Paul Striebel (CCAT), Bernice Zampano (DOL), Nicholas Zuba (CT Green Bank)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez, Beth Trenchard

**Minutes**

Beatriz Gutierrez opened the meeting at 9:05 AM. Beverlee Dacey moved to have the June minutes approved. Chris DiPentima seconded the motion. Colin Cooper noted a grammatical error in the draft minutes. With that correction, motion passed unanimously.

**Portfolio Update**

Carmen Molina-Rios reviewed the handout providing an overall summary of the Authorized/Unallocated funding to date. Beverlee Dacey asked about the 5% for administration. Ms. Molina-Rios explained that per statute DECD is required to set aside this funding and to date approximately $900,000 has been expended. A further explanation of DECD’s internal processes in tracking administrative expenses will be provided.

**Manufacturing Czar Status**

The chair, Beatriz Gutierrez, stated that Commissioner Lehman is in the process of interviewing candidates for the Manufacturing Czar position and is still open to candidate recommendations/resumes. She anticipates the Czar will be in place at DECD by September. Beverlee Dacey asked if this position will report to Commissioner Lehman or to Governor Lamont. Ms. Gutierrez replied that the Czar will be reporting to Commissioner Lehman, as a reflection of his dual role as the Governor’s chief economic advisor. John Zoldy inquired as to why the Manufacturing Czar will not be reporting directly to Governor Lamont. Ms. Gutierrez further explained that since there is no specific budget in place for this newly created position, the Czar will be able to draw upon staff and resources at DECD as needed.

**Manufacturing Innovation Discussion**

Beatriz Gutierrez proposed an off-site, strategic meeting of the Board in September at the University of Connecticut’s Innovation Center. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Board’s vision/strategy moving forward, provide information on best practices throughout the country and review how the Board’s work is addressing Manufacturing 4.0.

Also proposed was a working session with CCAT regarding how the unallocated funding will be utilized. Beverlee Dacey suggested that the Board meet first and then follow-up with a session with CCAT. And that it would be helpful to have information on how state funds are being leveraged and what programs are being supported with other state monies. Carmen Molina-Rios stated that she would be able to provide the Board with a sense of how state funds are being leveraged.

Ms. Molina-Rios concluded the meeting stating that correspondence will be forthcoming regarding a strategy session at UConn and a meeting with CCAT, perhaps prior to the scheduled October Board meeting.

**Meeting Closed**

Colin Cooper requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gutierrez closed the meeting at 9:40 AM