**Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

February 11, 2016

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, Connecticut

**Attendance**

* Board Members: Commissioner Catherine Smith, John Zoldy, John Harrity, Beverlee Dacey, Don Balducci
* Board Members via Phone: None
* Quorum: No
* Stakeholders: Tom Maloney, Sue Palisano, Mark Stankiewicz, Elliot Ginsberg, Jennifer Herz, Jeffrey Smith (representative for Danny DiPerna), Bernice Zampano, Bonnie Del Conte, Tracey Ariel, John Murphy, Paul Striebel
* Stakeholders via Phone: Bryan Garcia, David Furrer, Mun Choi, Hank Tesky
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Ben Arsenault, Bart Kollen, Barbara Fernandez, Alison Lubin, Toni Karnes

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:04 am.

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made; Catherine Smith also invites board members to Governor’s Economic Forum
2. Approval of January 14 minutes could not be completed due to lack of quorum – minutes will be voted on at next meeting
3. Composites Update:
   1. Delivered by Tom Maloney, CCAT
   2. Review of project goal, partners, project scope and schedule update
      1. Project is on schedule and projected that cell will be up and running by the end of the year (calendar year 2016)
   3. Questions from board members:
      1. “What is different about this cell?” – Catherine Smith
         1. It is big enough to handle the needed part and has very high spindle speeds
      2. “Do you see an opportunity for other players?” – Beverlee Dacey
         1. Yes, other companies will be able to use the machine
      3. “Are you working on additive manufacturing related to aerospace?” – John Harrity
         1. Yes, but not related to MIF money
      4. “What are the funding sources?” – Beverlee Dacey
         1. There are multiple sources: the total budget is $13M, but $5M came from the state
         2. So far MIF has paid $1.5M, but will need to pay CCAT another (already approved) $1.4M. Another $2.1M will need to be approved
   4. Additional comments from Pratt and Whitney representative: This machine will be integral to advanced aerospace, especially engines
   5. Tom Maloney invites the Board to come visit the CCAT manufacturing lab anytime
4. Dream It. Do It. Proposal
   1. Sue Palisano, CCAT, presented an overview of a proposal for additional MIF funding for the Dream It. Do It. program for FY17; they need funding in order to continue events, including Manufacturing Mania, Girls in Manufacturing summit (which was recently named a National Best Practice), and the Young Manufacturer Academy (also recognized as a National Best Practice)
   2. Surveys from Summer 2015 Young Manufacturer Academy showed there were positive changes in attitudes towards manufacturing and manufacturing careers and increases in content knowledge
      1. Ongoing parent surveys are also administered
   3. Current request: $380,000 - FY17 funding would help with increasing engagement with students, with a focus on young girls and urban youth, as well as follow-up Young Manufacturer Academy events in March, April, and May. Former students and families would be invited to attend these follow-up events, as well as potentially open the events to other students as a recruitment tool
      1. In Summer ’15, CCAT was unable to run 7th academy due to insufficient funds and would like to run 8 academies during Summer ‘16
      2. Goals associated with increased funding include:
         1. Raising number of students at Academies to 150
         2. Increasing number of schools involved (55+)
         3. Increasing number of career fairs (raised to 4)
         4. Increasing number of employers involved for site visits and career fairs (30+)
      3. Will need funding by July 1 at the latest
      4. Mobile manufacturing lab
         1. Sue believes the mobile lab is pretty impressive and filled with LED screens to stream videos, 3D printers, work stations with computers, etc
         2. CHS asks for pictures 🡪 table until next meeting
            1. Are there any board members that want to work on this? Beverlee and John Harrity volunteer
   4. Board comments, questions, and concerns:
      1. CHS: How can we reach over 100,000 middle schoolers? Are there apps or start-up companies out there that can engage with more students? Should we put out an RFP?
      2. BD: Appreciates the value of the program, but question: do we want to think of an education piece to the funding? Do we want this to be ongoing instead and allocate an education portion of the funding?
         1. Want to make sure we have metrics for this, too
      3. JZ: Have we looked at a way to get manufacturing/trade organizations to help pull kids in?
      4. CHS: Is there federal or other state money for this? Propose to move Dream It. Do It funding out of state general fund and into MIF
      5. CHS: We agree that the core program is good and maybe we [the Board] give a little more money, but we also want to think about strategizing around outreach and engagement
         1. CHS: We’ll put out a voting document for board members for core Dream It. Do It. programming and Young Manufacturer Academy Funding
            1. BD follow-up: we don’t want this to be a hodge-podge effort – this should be well-thought out and should come after strategic planning
      6. BD: Let’s get Voucher companies to call/partner with community colleges in area to get college kids to intern at companies that are improving/upgrading their equipment
      7. Board request for more detailed budget
   5. Due to the lack of quorum, the Board cannot vote on the proposal
5. IMCP Co Chair Report Out:

Workforce Development: overview by John Zoldy. Sue Palisano did a lot of work completing a marketing inventory; excited to work with new DOL Commissioner Scott Jackson

Supplier Network: overview by Catherine Smith. Major effort to work with EB and take lessons learned from ACM and apply it to larger network; working to set a meeting with EB; Hank Tesky: compiled initial list of contact to plan a meaningful meeting

Research and Innovation: overview by David F (UConn). Have had several in-person meetings with the group, P&W, EB, and UConn; there will be a meeting today [2/11/16] to focus efforts on CT suppliers, improving technology within the supply chain and collaborating with UConn Tech Park; focus on increasing jobs and improving skills of the workforce

Infrastructure and Site Development: overview by Bryan Garcia. Commissioner Klee put out an internal call for ideas to assemble objectives; regarding energy infrastructure, there is a call with Carmen and Barbara for proposal outline to speak with federal agencies

Trade and International: overview by Beverlee Dacey. Idea: we currently have key Enterprise Zones – can we work with DECD to capitalize on these designated zones to further develop? Is there transportation funding available? Suggestion to use IMCP funds to improve existing Enterprise Zones

Operational Improvements: overview by John Harrity. Meeting scheduled for later in February with Pratt &Whitney reps, as well as EB; the big conversation will be the issue of identifying federal funds and discussing how we go about filling out grant applications

Evaluation and Metrics: overview by Don Balducci. Want to get Alison involved with metrics; holding an upcoming meeting to get their metric document ready

1. Other Business:
   1. Carmen Molina Rios discussing legislation at the national level
   2. State of Ethics filing by May 1
      1. The board would like a 20 minute presentation from the Office of State Ethics
   3. Is MIF “firewalled” during the budget crisis?
      1. MIF is bonded but not in the General Fund, which is good because it is General Fund money that comes under pressure in budget crises
   4. Next meeting will be held March 10, 2016
   5. Strategic planning conversations will be held March 24, 12-3pm, location TBD (pre-work will be sent out)
2. Commissioner Smith adjourns at 10:32