

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***September Meeting Minutes***

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

October 19, 2017

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room A Second Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members Present: John Harrity, Don Balducci, Chris DiPentima, Kelli Vallieres, Todd Pihl, and Catherine Smith,
- Board Members via phone: John Zoldy
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders Present: Todd Berch, Tracey Ariel, Mike???, Eleanor Lennon
- Stakeholders via phone: Bernice Zampano Todd Berch, Ken Poole
- DECD Staff: Barbara Fernandez, Carmen Molina-Rios and Toni Karnes

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:07 am.

Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting. The Commissioner asked for a motion to accept the September Minutes. John Harrity made the motion and Don Balducci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **College Connection**

Tracey Ariel provided an overview of the College Connection Program. She noted that the program goal was to service 300 students. She also reviewed the program budget with the Board. Commissioner Smith noted that the cost per student is high and asked if there any way to reduce the cost. After some discussion, Ms. Ariel proceeded to review the Program's Implementation Plan. She noted that she was requesting to extend the program through 2018 in order to allow students starting in January to get a full year. Commissioner Smith suggested that the program move forward as a pilot. Mr. DiPentima requested that program provide metrics on what the students are getting out of the program. After further discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to proceed with the program. Don Balducci so moved. Chris DiPentima seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Draper Recommendations**

Barbara Fernandez reviewed the Draper recommendations. She noted that the areas of focus were Investing in manufacturing awareness, innovation and readiness; Changing the game by thinking outside the box; Encourage and adopt advanced manufacturing trends. After some discussion, Ms. Vallieres noted that developing a qualified workforce was not in the recommendations. Ms. Fernandez stated that it can be added. Mr. DiPentima asked the Board to think about the areas of where they were in agreement or disagreement and forward their comments to staff. Mr. Harrity also asked that the list of recommendation from the strategic meeting be included.

## **Voucher Funding**

Commissioner Smith had to leave and turned the meeting over to Chris DiPentima to act as Chair. Ms. Fernandez reviewed the metrics of the Voucher Program Report as of September 30, 2017. Some discussion ensued and Ms. Molina-Rios noted that the Voucher Program was extremely successful. She also advised that in Commissioner Smith's absence the Board did not have a quorum as Mr. Balducci would need to recuse himself. Mr. DiPentima suggested that rather than having an e-vote, the Board wait until the next meeting for the vote. He stated that this would also give the Board time to pull together additional information additional data on the type of companies funded, number of applications, and need trends of funding requests. In addition, Mr. Harrity asked that CCAT provide an explanation of the 20% rejection rate for applicants.

## **MIF Workforce Investments and Metrics**

Barbara Fernandez and Carmen Molina-Rios reviewed the Workforce Development and Metrics. They broke the information down by program outlining the investment as of June 30, 2016 and the investment as of June 30, 2017 so that the Board could see its progress. After some discussion, John Harrity asked surveys be completed by the participants of the Dream It Do It and Young Manufactures programs.

## **Annual Report**

Carmen Molina-Rios reminded the Board that it was time to prepare the annual report. She requested volunteers from the Board to review the message and data points of the report as was done last year. John Harrity, Chris DiPentima and Beverlee Dacey agreed to help. Ms. Molina Rios informed them that she would have a draft mid to late November.

## **Other Business**

Next Meeting Date November 16, 2017

After additional discussion, Mr. DiPentima asked for a motion to adjourn. John Harrity moved the motion. John Zoldy seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30.