

Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021
Connecticut Department of Labor
Office of Apprenticeship Training
Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting

I. Meeting Call to Order at 1:30 p.m. There was a quorum.

Members in Attendance- Chair/ Interim Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo, Larry Vallieres, Frank DaCato, Paul Costello, Christopher J. Brown, Kelli Vallieres, Richard DuPont

Members Not in Attendance - Martin Alvarenga, Gregory Raucci, Robert Berkmoes

Others Present

State Apprenticeship Director Todd Berch, Deputy Commissioner Daryle Dudzinski, Deputy Commissioner Mark Polzella, Eleanor Lennon, Keri Valente, Larry Satchell, Anna Metcalf, Marisa Morello Bernard Treml, Commissioner Angel Quiros of the CT State Department of Corrections, Mark Tyler, Deborah Wright, Juliet Lackey, Tony Dorn, Cindy Cook, John Pereira, Katherine Mamed, Gregg Strede, Tashana Brown

Chair/Commissioner Bartolomeo welcomed Federal OA Regional Director Bernard Treml and thanked him for his partnership with CT Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Training. Director Treml informed Council members that this is the 7th Annual National Apprenticeship week and that today is National Women in Apprenticeship Day. He said there have been 5,000 events, 700 proclamations and 47,000 attendees across the country. Director Treml said the federal OA is highlighting the Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative. The goal is to create a national network of employers, labor organizations, industry associations, educators, workforce intermediaries and other stakeholders to serve as champions for expanding and diversifying registered apprenticeship. Director Treml and Chair Bartolomeo congratulated State Apprenticeship Director Todd Berch on being elected the current Vice President and future President of NASTAD (National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors).

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – May 20, 2021 minutes passed unanimously.

Recorder

P. DePhillips

III. Correspondence – Governor Lamont’s Proclamation of National Apprenticeship Week

Chair/Commissioner Bartolomeo said she has been working on health care apprenticeships with Contracts Administrator Eleanor Lennon, State Apprenticeship Director Todd Berch and Deputy Commissioner Mark Polzella. A new apprenticeship program has been established for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) in Connecticut. The New England Health Care Employees District 1199 SEIU union is collaborating on this apprenticeship. The 1199 Union received a grant from the U.S. DOL which will subsidize the educational component of the program for the apprentices. St. Joseph’s Center (Genesis Health Care facility) hired these seven apprentices and seeks to expand the program into five additional nursing homes with the Union as their partner. There are expected to be 2,000 CNA job openings

available each year over the next ten years. To celebrate National Apprenticeship week an event was held at St. Joseph's Center and the seven Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) were presented with their registered apprenticeship cards. The CNA's completed their regular training and instruction and are about to begin their on- the - job training.

Commissioner Bartolomeo also informed Council members that CTDOL received a four year ten million Apprenticeship grant and are partnering with Yale New Haven Healthcare Systems on a patient care technician apprenticeship. To qualify for this an apprentice must have a high school diploma and a CNA certificate. Yale has committed to hiring 1,250 patient care technicians over the next four years.

IV. Public Comment - Tony Dorn, president of Chestnut Electric Corporation congratulated Todd on the expansion of apprenticeship trades and thanked him for his collaboration on electrical trade apprenticeships.

V. Apprenticeship Program Presentations Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week –

- Mark Tyler- Vet dogs Apprenticeship program partnered with Department of Correction
Commissioner Angel Quiros thanked Commissioner Bartolomeo and thanked Apprenticeship Director Todd Berch for recognizing the Vet Dogs partnership with CT Corrections to train service dogs with inmates as an apprenticeship program.
VET Dogs is a guide Dog foundation for the blind based in NY that was founded 75 years ago. The program originally serviced Veterans with disabilities but was expanded to include civilians. VET Dogs mission is to supply service dogs to disabled vets. Partnering with the Department of Corrections helps VET Dogs meet the demand from disabled veterans that want service dogs. Vet Dogs has partnered with Correction facilities for the past 10 years and operates in 13 prisons on the east coast from Florida to Maine.
The inmates/apprentices gain employment skills and the program reduces recidivism. Dogs are brought in at 10 weeks old and partnered with a team of inmates who are screened. Mark works directly with the inmates on the dog training and the dogs leave after one year when they are placed with disabled veterans.
- Deborah Wright of Hartford Health Care provided a power point presentation on the development of a new Health Information Management apprenticeship program. The program was developed for several occupations including hospital coder, inpatient coding auditor and Privacy and Security officer. Ms. Wright thanked Director Berch for his assistance in establishing the apprenticeship program.
Juliet Lackey, a manager at Hartford Hospital's HIM department who went through the apprenticeship program discussed her experience with the Council. She completed her apprenticeship in June 2021 and was promoted to System Manager for Release of Information.

Governor Ned Lamont joined the meeting and discussed the benefits of apprenticeship training and how the programs assist the public with employment. The Governor thanked Commissioner Bartolomeo and Todd Berch for the work they are doing to expand registered apprenticeship opportunities.

VI. Apprenticeship Director Report - Todd Berch reported that there are currently 1,703 Employers/Sponsors, 5,934 current apprentices. 1,594 newly registered apprentices. 624 apprentices completed programs. Todd praised his staff and noted that during the fiscal year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) his staff serviced over 9,300 apprentices during a pandemic.

VII. New Business – None.

VIII. Old Business- None.

IX. Good and Welfare - None.

X. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

The next State Apprenticeship Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Location: To be determined