



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Governor's Workforce Council
September 12, 2024
Held at Gateway Community College
Minutes are unapproved.

Council Members Present:

Mark Argosh; Kelli-Marie Vallieres; Amy Porter; Carol Kennedy for Anthony Medici; George Anderson for Brian Doubles; Charlene Russell-Tucker; Cindi Bigelow; Dante Bartolomeo; Ed Hawthorne; Erika Smith; Gregory Ugalde; Bethany Zemba for Judy Olian; Sal Mancino for Katheen Silard; Brian Simmons for Keri Hoehne; Leticia Colon de Mejias; Abby Sannizzaro for Martin Guay; Maurie McInnis; Michelle James; Molly Kellog; Dr. Monette Ferguson; Nikitoula Menounos; Nitin Kumar, Paul Costello; Paul Pernerewski; Peter Nystrom; Radenka Maric; Dr. Sal Menzo; Shawn Coyne; Shehu Muhamed; Shellye Davis; Terrence Cheng; Tiana Ocasio; Rep. Toni Walker; David Steuber for Dan O'Keefe; Dorinda Manner for Melissa Turner

Council Members Absent:

Ryan Drajewicz; Chris DiPentima; Joseph Gianni; Leslie Torres-Rodriguez; Maggie Hulce; Rebecca Rose; Shane Eddy; Herron Gaston; Jay Williams; Dr. Jeffrey Flaks; Dr. John Murphy; Ray Pineault; Rohan Freeman; Steve Sullivan; Tywanda Talley-Rushing; Wes Alexander

Vice-Chair Vallieres calls the meeting to order at 4:08pm.

- Provided opening remarks, welcoming new Council members Nitin Kumar of Tata Consultancy Services and Maurie McInnis, new president of Yale University. Gives updates on WIOA plan.
- Discussed the Program Year 2024 allocation of formula funds for WIOA, as determined by state factors and used to fund workforce boards Title I activities.

Vice-Chair Vallieres reviews the items to be voted on and calls the committee to vote at 4:17pm.

1. Meeting Minutes from Q2 Meeting, May 23, 2024
2. Program Year 2024 (Fiscal Year 2025) WIOA Title I Allocations

Vice-Chair Vallieres calls the committee to vote. Committee motions to vote on two items.

1. Vote 1: Q2 Governor's Workforce Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2024. Motion to vote made by Greg Ugalde, seconded by Tina Ocasio. No discussion. All members present in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion passed at 4:21pm
2. Vote 2: Program Year 2024 WIOA Title 1 Allocations. Motion to vote made by Shellye Davis, seconded by Paul Costello. No discussion. All members present in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion passed at 4:22pm.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Yay</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>	<i>Result</i>
1. Meeting Minutes from Q2 Meeting, May 23, 2024	34*	0	0	Motion passes at 4:21pm
2. Program Year 2024 (Fiscal Year 2025) WIOA Title I Allocations	34*	0	0	Motion passes at 4:22pm

**Reflects the number of members present at time of vote*

- Vice-Chair Vallieres discusses the WIOA Unified State Plan being conditionally approved and available on the website at portal.ct.gov/gwc/wioa. The local plans, including executive summaries, are also



accessible. An electronic vote to the Executive Committee on these plans is forthcoming.

Vice-Chair Vallieres reviews Strategic Plan's overview, goals, and key indicators at 4:30pm

- Workforce System Challenges and Strategic Plan Overview. Discussed the new strategic plan's focus on fewer but more impactful initiatives than the previous plan. The plan aims to make Connecticut the most productive workforce system in the country by filling critical shortage areas and aligning education with business needs. Key focus areas include manufacturing, technology, healthcare, clean energy, infrastructure, and information technology. The plan includes significant investments in ARPA dollars to scale best practices in workforce development.
- Goals and Indicators: Goal one is filling critical shortage areas with globally competitive talent. With indicators ensuring every student and job seeker has a job upon completion of their program, aligned with business needs. Goal two is providing opportunities and access for underserved communities. Indicators include increased: wages, employment, industry-recognized credential attainment, and postsecondary degree attainments aligned with industry needs in these populations. Goal three to create a data-driven Workforce system. Indicators for goal three to include access to real-time data for effective decision-making and reporting and providing programmatic outcomes to students and job seekers to enable informed decisions on education and training.
- Alignment and Best practices in Workforce Development. Highlighted the need to align workforce programs and funding streams to build on existing efforts and ensure all are working toward the same goal. Plan includes two foundational pillars and three strategic pillars, based on lessons learned from the previous plan. First foundational pillar is diversity, equity, access, and inclusion with a focus on removing unique barriers for underserved communities. Second foundational pillar is data-driven decision-making, ensuring all efforts are grounded in accurate data.
- Strategic Pillars and Achievements: Industry Leadership is a strategic pillar with the establishment of regional sector partnerships to engage industry partners. Education and Sector-based training are separated into two pillars, focusing on enhancing dual and concurrent enrollment programs. Sector-based training aims to provide industry-recognized credentials to upskill individuals and move them into career pathways.

Governor Ned Lamont remarks at 4:48pm

- Governor Lamont emphasized the importance of workforce development as a strategic advantage for Connecticut and benefits of working to align different entities to ensure seamless workforce development efforts. Highlighted workforce development as a priority over the past six years. Despite a national labor shortage, Connecticut is experiencing a rebound in labor participation rates, among the highest in the U.S. Discussed initiatives like partnerships with community colleges, the importance of integrating workforce training from K-12 through higher education and increasing collaboration with businesses to better align training with job needs. Also spoke to specific programs aimed at addressing skill shortages in critical sectors like healthcare and manufacturing, and incentives to encourage hiring and support for employee childcare needs.

Vice-Chair Vallieres adjourns meeting for Breakout discussions.

- Vice-Chair Vallieres encourages everyone to submit any additional strategic plan feedback to the Council email at GWC@ct.gov. Reminds Council members liaisons will be working with Committee Co-Chairs to schedule Pillar Committee meetings. Announces the next Q4 GWC meeting on November 14, 2024 (virtual).



Breakout Sessions

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access (DEIA) led by Anthony Barrett and Genevieve Walker; Data & Accountability led by Mark Argosh and Scott Gaul; Industry Leadership led by Vice-Chair Kelli-Marie Vallieres; Sector Training led by Shawn Coyne; Education and Career Pathways led by Chancellor Terrence Cheng and Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker

Meeting concludes at 5:02p.m.

- Guests are welcomed back at 6:00p.m. for an optional Networking hour following the conclusion of the Breakout discussions.

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