



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Governor's Workforce Council

May 23, 2024

Minutes approved on 9.12.2024

Council Members Present:

Mark Argosh; Kelli-Marie Vallieres; Amy Porter; George Anderson for Brian Doubles; Keith Norton for Charlene Russell-Tucker; Chris DiPentima; Dan O'Keefe; Mark Polzella for Dante Bartolomeo; Ed Hawthorne; Gregory Ugalde; Jeff Auker; Joseph Gianni; Bethany Zemba for Judy Olian; Keri Hoehne; Leslie Torres-Rodriguez; Lillian Brough for Leticia Colon de Mejias; Jack Mahoney for Maggie Hulce; Kyle Ballou for Melissa Turner; Michelle James; Monette Ferguson; Paul Costello; Richard Jacob for Peter Salovey; Gladis Kersaint for Radenka Maric; Rebecca Rose; Peter Holland for Shane Eddy; Shawn Coyne; Shehu Muhamed; Shellye Davis; Nikitoula Menounos

Council Members Absent:

Anthony Medici; Cindi Bigelow; Erika Smith; Herron Gaston; Jay Williams; Dr. Jeffrey Flaks; Dr. John Murphy.; Katheen Silard; Martin Guay; Molly Kellog; Paul Pernerewski; Peter Nystrom, Ray Pineault; Rohan Freeman; Dr. Sal Menzo; Sharon Barr; Steve Sullivan; Suresh Muthuswami; Terrence Cheng; Tiana Ocasio; Toni Walker F: Tywanda Talley-Rushing; Wes Alexander

Chair Argosh calls the meeting to order at 2:33pm and provides opening remarks.

Chair Argosh reviews the issues to be voted on at 2:35pm.

1. February 29, 2024 Minutes

Chair Argosh calls the committee to vote at 2:35 pm.

VOTES

1. February 29,2024 Governor's Workforce Meeting Minutes

<i>Item</i>	<i>Yay</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>	<i>Result</i>
1. February 29,2024 Governor's Workforce Meeting Minutes	21	0	6	<i>Motion passes at 2:46pm</i>

Voting concludes at 2:46 pm

Governor Ned Lamont opening remarks and special announcement at 3:00pm Governor Lamont recognizes Chair Argosh for his contributions and service to the Council. Appoints Ryan Drajewicz, Head of External Communications and Affairs at Bridgewater Associates, as new chairman of the Council.

Chair Argosh asks Vice-Chair Kelli Vallieres to provide the OWS Report at 3:16pm

- Kelli discusses workforce development project with The Connecticut Project and Jobs for the Future.
- Highlights marketing campaign for Career ConneCT.
- Program Year 2024 (FY25) Funding, effective July 1, 2024-USDOL - ETA has released the WIOA Formula Funds. Council meeting to be held before end of June to vote on annual allocations. Confirmed date to follow.
- Q3 GWC meeting September 12,2024 to be held in person. Location TBA.
- The 2024-2027 WIOA plan was submitted for federal review. Feedback was provided by a team of Federal Reviewers and Agencies are working to respond. No comments were provided during the public comment period.



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Vice-Chair Kelli Vallieres introduces Patrick Flaherty, Director of Research at the Department of Labor to provide the Labor Market Report at 3:18pm

- Discussed inflation and interest rates currently at 3.5% with federal goal of 2%.
- Unemployment rate in Connecticut has increased slightly, likely due to people entering labor force.
- Highlighted low layoff rate but notes voluntary quitting is higher, particularly among retirees.
- Connecticut's job market is recovering, with private sector jobs at an all-time high.
- Discussed job openings in Connecticut, mentioning 90,000 openings and 60,000 new hires monthly.
- Turnover in the labor market remains high, with 2000 people starting new jobs daily and fewer retiring or moving on.
- Highlighted job postings database "Help Wanted Online", showing 86,000 job openings in various industries, with healthcare leading the way.
- Noted differences in the labor force by demographic: Caucasian population has lower labor force participation rates than post-pandemic, while African American and Hispanic populations have seen increases.
- Labor force participation rates for 45-64 age group are flat for both males and females, while under-25 group may have lower participation due to education and training.
- Discussed Connecticut's population growth, highlighting the role of international migration in increasing the state's population.
- Emphasized the importance of recognizing the skills and credentials of Immigrants and utilizing their workforce potential.

Vice-Chair Kelli Vallieres introduces Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer at Department of Education to present Postsecondary Outcomes on College Enrollment/Graduation and Labor Earnings at 3:39pm

- Shared insights on the State Department of Education's work, including language diversity in schools and data transparency.
- Connecticut high school graduates' post-secondary enrollment and persistence declined after pandemic.
- Highlighted college completion rates for free/reduced price meal eligible students, showing a significant gap between the two groups.
- Discussed post-secondary labor and earnings data for Connecticut high school graduates.
- Shared data on college completion and earnings for the class of 2011 in Connecticut, highlighting the significance of a college credential.
- Associates and certificates earn higher wages than those with some college but no credential or no college, according to the data.
- Discussed gender and racial disparities in earnings for college-credentialed workers.
- Highlighted interactive dashboards for education data, allowing users to drill down by student characteristics and industry sectors. Interactive section lets users construct their own visualizations and view data by district, school, or state level.
- Discussed challenges in tracking data for non-credit bearing programs, skewed data due to high cost of certain programs.
- Mentioned P20Win reports on earnings outcomes, inviting higher ed professionals to join the discussion.
- Presented an extensive P20Win research project on pathways of people's earnings over time, to be released in fall/winter.

Chair Argosh introduces Breakout discussions at 4:01pm:

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employment) led by Lisa Tepper Bates, President & CEO, United Way of Connecticut; Benefits Cliffs led by the 2Gen Generational Initiative: Amy Peltier, Family Economic Mobility Tri-Chair, Christina L. Morales, Statewide 2Gen Coordinator and 2Gen Advisory Board Parent, Alexis Dwyer; Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) led by Josh Hurlock, Deputy Director, CHESLA; Recovery Friendly Designation led by Robert Bongiolatti, Operations Coordinator, CT Department of Labor



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Breakout Sessions

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employment): Lisa Tepper Bates, President & CEO, United Way of Connecticut

- Discussed the growing financial hardship in Connecticut, particularly among households struggling to make ends meet. Highlighted wage disparities and inadequate safety nets as key drivers of financial hardship, with racial and gender disparities exacerbating the issue. Also discussed potential solutions, including an automatic and easy-to-access child tax credit, and addressing the benefit cliff. Emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in the state budget, including low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness.

Benefits Cliffs: 2Gen Generational Initiative: Amy Peltier, Family Economic Mobility Tri-Chair, Christina L. Morales, Statewide 2Gen Coordinator and 2Gen Advisory Board Parent, Alexis Dwyer

- The Two Gen approach in Connecticut aims to support families holistically by addressing the needs of both parents and children. Discussion aimed at the benefits of this approach and the challenges faced by parents with disabilities in the workforce. The conversation also touched on the concept of 'benefit cliffs' and the rollout of a new tool called the 'Cliff tool' to assist families in making informed decisions. The importance of acknowledging and supporting parents with disabilities in the workforce was emphasized, as well as efforts to pass policies promoting family income mobility.

Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA): Josh Hurlock, Deputy Director, CHESLA

- Discussed financial assistance programs available to students and professionals in Connecticut. Highlighted CHESLA's four main programs including: financial literacy, scholarships, in-school loans, and refinancing program for professionals, emphasizing the importance of financial literacy. Discussed CHESLA's Financial Products' student loan offerings, CHESLA's scholarship and refinance programs, and the employer student loan repayment program, all aimed at supporting Connecticut's workforce through education and financial assistance.

Recovery Friendly Designation: Robert Bongiolatti, Operations Coordinator, CT Department of Labor

- The conversation centered around creating recovery-friendly workplaces in Connecticut and developing a toolkit and navigator program to support individuals in recovery. Emphasized the importance of collaboration and engagement with employers, organizations, and communities to promote recovery-friendly workplaces. Discussed the role of workforce development boards in funding and providing support for apprenticeship programs, addressing challenges such as employer stigma and inadequate resources for outreach and training.

Chair Argosh thanks everyone for joining the meeting and for their time.

Mark reminds everyone the next GWC meeting on September 12, 2024 will be in person. Location to follow.

Meeting concludes at 4:23 p.m.