
STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL REINVESTMENT WORKFORCE COMMITTEE
(DRAFT)

December 20, 2023, Meeting 2 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Naeem at 2:02 p.m.

2. Attendance

Corrie Betts
Avery Gaddis
Andrea Hawkins
Michael Jefferson
Ojala Naeem
Shirley Skyers-Thomas
Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Kevin Walton

Council members absent:

Andrea Comer
Subira Gordon
Paul O. Robertson

Staff: Vera Lembrick, Program, Manager for Reinvestment; Tiffany Araujo, Workforce Program Manager; Jennifer Edwards, Program Manager; Karen Colebut, Paralegal Specialist

3. Approval for the November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Naeem entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion – by Councilman Avery Gaddis
Second – by Councilman Michael Jefferson
In favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion passed – The draft meeting minutes were approved.

4. Reinvestment/Workforce Update
Workforce Program Update

- Executive Director Clay began her presentation by stating that the SEC staff is working with Oaksterdam University and the program is an entry level one work

force training. Director Clay continued that the program had to be stopped as the contract had to be extended. Director Clay stated that she had hoped to have more, but a program has been identified for DIA residents which will be sort of a self-paced entry-level cannabis, which would give them a certificate. Also, we are working on doing some in-person work to provide some technical assistance for individuals but would result in a certificate that folks could take into cannabis companies that are hiring entry-level cannabis positions. In addition, we are working on a management level certification as well.

- Executive Director Clay stated that the contract for OU is to do the cannabis workforce training as well as a boot camp for a pre lottery in anticipation of a lottery in 2024 that we would do some boot camp work for people who are interested in applying and that work is being done with OU and the accelerator.

Reinvestment Plan Update

- Director Clay began her discussion on the Reinvestment Plan by stating that she emailed the results of the survey to all members of the Social Equity Council. I don't know if you have any questions around that, but as we receive this information from the Community, conversations, and other sources, so you have in your document that I sent you, there is a data and information gathered section. Director Clay continued by stating that they had sixteen conversations. The conversations took place in Waterbury, New Haven and Hartford and the SEC staff received 663 results to the survey.
- Chair Naeem asked Director Clay if she had any highlights from the community conversations. Director Clay stated that they would be using the poverty rate and conviction rate for DIA verification, and that is where they will look to reinvest the funds. Director Clay thanked the Council for the feedback provided to her. In addition, the cannabis conviction and arrest data report was forwarded to the governor.
- Director Clay asked Program Manager Vera Lembrick to highlight the community conversations. Program Manager Lembrick stated that consistency was seen overwhelmingly in the community conversations. Other key topics expressed throughout the community conversations were assistance with childcare, economic development, unemployment, and lack of community programs for youth to name a few. Councilwoman Andrea Hawkins stated that she would like for the Council to ensure that the allocation of funds would be supported by the data collected.
- Discussion ensued.

Pre lottery

- Executive Director Clay stated that there will most likely be a lottery held in 2024. She stated that they are beginning to put together a plan to communicate with the DIAs and the residents of the DIAs to help them understand the lottery. Director Clay added that the SEC staff will be working very closely with the Department of Consumer Protection and Oaksterdam University on education pieces.
- Discussion ensued

5. For the Good of the Order

- Councilman Jefferson stated that he thinks the Council is doing a great job and to keep up the good work

Adjournment

Chairwoman Naeem entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Corrie Betts

In favor – All

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

/kc