

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

April Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

April 6, 2018

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room B, Plaza, South Tower
Hartford, Connecticut

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Colin Cooper, Don Balducci, Kelli Vallieres, Beverly Dacey, Catherine Smith, Chris DiPentima, John Zoldy, Emir Redzic
- Board Members via phone: Todd Pihl
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Shane Eddy
- Stakeholders Present: Eric Brown, Paul Striebel, John Glidden, Maricel Pathammavong, Sue Palisano
- Stakeholders via phone: Bernice Zampano, Bonnie DelConte, Todd Berch
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez, Toni Karnes, Beatriz Gutierrez, Tony Roberto

Minutes

Catherine Smith opened the meeting at 9:06 am.

Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept the February Minutes. Beverlee Dacey moved to accept the February meeting minutes. Colin Cooper seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CT Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth – Catherine Smith gave an overview and update of the State's Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth. She noted that modernizing CT's manufacturing supply chain's technology and expertise would be a priority.

CCAT Audit & Preliminary Observations– After some discussion, Catherine and Tony Roberto gave an overview of the state's investments in CCAT. She also noted the difference between pass through and administrative investments. Mr. Roberto reviewed the CCAT unaudited financials for the board explaining the fee for service revenue.

After some discussion, Commissioner Smith stated that DECD would continue to the financial review of the CCAT statements in order to obtain accurate information as to the organizational funding sources and use of funds. She noted that CCAT was charged with the task of creating a strategic business plan based on client feedback and submitting the plan to DECD.

Apprenticeship Request –Todd Berch reviewed the results of the MIF Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship program. He noted that there were approximately 411 apprenticeship slots. After some

discussion, Commissioner Smith Commissioner Smith requested a motion to approve the request for funding of \$3,000,000 which included \$150,000 in administration costs. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Kellie Vallieres moved and Don Balducci seconded the motion. The motion passed. No abstentions.

Dream it Do It & Young Manufacturers Program – Susan Palisano of CCAT reviewed the Dream It Do It (DIDI) and Young Manufacturers (YMA) Program Metrics. She noted that the programs were successful and highlighted a wait list of 70 students. She also advised the Board on vocational technical trends noting gains in female enrollment.

After some discussion, Sue Palisano reviewed the details of the proposal and budget for both DIDI and YMA programs. CCAT will run the programs in a total of ten sites. Commissioner Smith commented if the program was to go above the ten sites, the board would be willing to consider additional funding based on new calculations. The board would need to take a separate vote for any additional funding request. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Smith requested a motion to approve the DIDI and YMA proposal and funding request of \$500,000. Colin Cooper move the motion and John Zoldy seconded. Don Balducci recused himself. The motion passed.

Connecticut Center of Excellence for Composites Update – Barbara Fernandez provided the Board with an update on the contract negotiations for Connecticut Center of Excellence for Composites.

Other Business – Beverlee Dacey noted that she was working on a new workforce development project along with an alternative magnet school. The concept is for the program to prepare 7th, 8th and 9th graders for the pre-apprenticeship training. Ms. Dacey will discuss further at the next meeting.

Commissioner Smith requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beverlee Dacey moved the motion and Colin Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Smith closed the meeting at 10:40.