



**Capital Workforce Partners**  
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**Future Workforce Services Committee**  
**September 7, 2011**

**Attendees:** Jason Howey, Bill Putt, Ram Aberasturia, Paulette Fox, Lou Golden, Tom Mongellow and Hector Rivera.

**Staff:** Tom, Phillips, Alex Johnson, Pam Nabors, Julie Watson, Gerry Berthiaume, Alissa Johnston, Jim Boucher, and Liz Saunders

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Jason Howey called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

**II. Consent Item**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

Bill Putt made a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 22, 2011 meeting. Lou Golden seconded it. All were in favor none opposed the motion carried.

**III. New Business**

**a. CWP Career Competency Website:**

- Jim and Sandy gave an update and status report on the new Career-Competency web site for SYELP.
- A brief demonstration on the capabilities of the system was given. If any committee members would like to access the test site they are welcome. Test passwords and access codes will be given.
- The whole project is still in a quality control phase as we continue to tweek.
- This is available to Partner/Providers, Students, Parents, Employers and Educators.
- Funding for this came from Bank of America and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
- This is a very innovative strategy and we are positioning ourselves to try and secure the next round of funding. Approximately \$125,000 is needed for next phase.
- The system was built to work in partner with Hartford Connects.
- Several questions were asked: Is it mandatory to use this system? The answer is yes, that's the intent and as we go through the school year we will be able to better answer the question. Are there privacy issues? Yes, that's the reason for the access codes and passwords.

**b. Preliminary Update on SYELP 11:**

- Julie Watson handed out a report and outlined the program stating that CWP provided learning and employment to 1,931 youth through a mix of state, city and private funding. There is a much greater need than we are able to provide. We had a late start due to the budget crisis. 800 - 900 fewer youths were served due to the demise of federal funding for summer youth.
- CWP received 3,686 applications by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- We are still waiting on final numbers and reports.
- There were a total of five funding sources CT DOL, City of Hartford, CT DCF, ASF American Savings Foundation of New Britain and HFPG.
- Julie outlined the number of applicants and participants by town and by age.
- We continue to receive applications from out of school youth who are not eligible to participate in this program.

- Over \$1.6 million dollars ended up in the hands of children and their families. That number will increase a bit as we wind down the program for this year.
- CWP implemented a new model this year and contracted with Blue Hills Civic, Catholic Charities, Community Renewal Team, Human Resources Agency of New Britain and Our Piece of the Pie as Lead Agencies. The Lead Agencies worked with thirteen partner agencies to deliver the competency training, mentoring, coaching and employment support to participants. In addition, there were three stand-alone programs provided by Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), CT Puerto Rican Forum and Urban League of Greater Hartford.
- A chart showing enrollment by Provider and by Tier was also included.
- We are confident that the data will show the validity of our Tier progression system.
- Discussion was held regarding participants continuing on with the companies they worked for during the school year or after graduation.

c. Update on WIA Contract Renewal Process:

Pam updated the committee on the WIA Contract renewals.

- The following contractors have been approved Blue Hills Civic, Bristol Community, CREC, HRA of New Britain, OIC of New Britain, OPP and Urban League of Greater Hartford for contract renewal.
- It is vital to CWP that these 207 participants achieve positive outcomes and are the first priority for services in this new contract year.
- CWP has determined that in order to meet its WIA Youth performance standards its programs must achieve at least 70% of each of the standards listed. This 70% performance threshold must be attained in order for contractors to be authorized for funding to serve additional youth during 2011-2012.
- CWP will evaluate contractor performance for currently enrolled youth in the first two quarters of the program year. If the contractor is meeting the 70% performance threshold then they will be authorized to enroll new participants. If the contractors are or are not meeting the 70% we will modify their contract and that they will conclude with those youth and ramp the program down.
- We will come back in November with a list of those providers who are attaining the 70% goal and those who are not.

**IV. Announcements/Other:**

Alex announced Bill Putt as the Vice Chair supporting our Chair Jason Howey.

As we move forward we need to clearly plot the work of the committee and ensure that we are getting the data reports and that we making sure that individuals are meeting the competencies, the issue of no funding prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> constantly plagues our building, continuing to build out our Career Competency Website, the continued struggle of minimal resources available for our out of school youth, how do we do a better job utilizing our WIA dollars, procurement for the WIA program and working with the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure that we meet our compliance requirements are all priorities for this committee.

Ram mentioned that the 1<sup>st</sup> annual CT-Works Challenge was held on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Over \$1300 was raised and money is still coming in. This money will be used for youth employment scholarship fund. We are thinking of doing some type of fundraiser during the holiday period to help increase the funds. Thanks to Sandy for the CT-Works t-shirts.

Sandy stated that CWP is holding a press conference in conjunction with the Governor, Mayor Segarra and the Commissioner of Labor on Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall on construction jobs in our region.

Tom spoke on Summer Youth Employment Program and it's a year round effort. We are always gearing up our advocacy strategy and to make sure that the resources are in place and to find ways to build on that. The last few years have been a battle with no stimulus money and no federal money. We are always trying to promote the program as a career development program as opposed to an anti violence program. Our Legislative Advisory Committee will be meeting this month to begin the process of looking at various educational and advocacy strategies. Some initiatives have begun with outreach effort to private business to find unsubsidized jobs with some success.

Bill Putt made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Tom Mongellow. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting will be November 2, 2011 at 8 a.m.