



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
May 29, 2020 at 8:00am  
Zoom Virtual Meeting Hartford CT

**Attendees:** Todd Andrews, Bettina Armour, Bill Bishop, Sheldon Bustow, Jon Colman, Jennifer DiBella, Renata Dixon, Paula Gilberto, Lindy Lee Gold, G. Duncan Harris, Mike Komaromi, Richard McGeary, Fiona Mohring, Tom Mongellow, Phillip Montgomery, Susan Pierson, Jonathan Richmond, John Simoneau, Dan Tapper, Stephen Vaughan, and Lyle Wray

**Staff:** Alex Johnson, Kim Staley, Jim Boucher, Denise Marois, Susan Mertz, Richard Pearson, Julie Watson, and Liz Saunders

**Absent:** Eric Hoepfner, Sandy Melo, Tracy Nixon-Moore, John Nimmons, and Joseph Toner

**Chairman Thomas Mongellow called the meeting to order at 8:06am**

Chairman Mongellow welcomed and thanked everyone for taking the time to join us remotely this morning.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Chairman Mongellow spoke on the possibility of a waiver of forgiveness for certain organizations amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Capitol is not in session right now there is a lot of activity going on. They may return at the end of June but that changes daily. The budget will be the big-ticket item. The Rainy-Day Fund has been exhausted. From DC no sooner than 4 weeks there may be another round of stimulus money. Not sure how it will be delegated out. We are going to send a letter on behalf of CWP and our board members unless they want to opt out in support of the National. A copy of the letter will be sent out to the Board.

**MISSION MOMENT: SYELP Modified Plan – Kimberly Staley/Jim Boucher**

Kimberly and Jim presented a redesign of our Summer Youth Program. A considerable amount of time has gone into the redesign of this program. Jim gave an in-depth look at the statistics of our program. He stated that this program matters, and it has a significant impact on our youth. Our plan is to serve approximately 1500 youth with all participants having 120 hours of work or remote learning. We will use the Tier system with Tier 1 serving 360, 14-15 year-old participants, Tier 2 serving 434, 15-16 year-old participants and Tier 3 serving 506, 16-21 year-old participants. All Tiers will have access to mental health supports and 40 hours of work readiness competencies. Currently we have 194 worksites offering 291 placement opportunities. Special thanks to Mayor Leclerc who provided opportunities with Riverfront Recapture. If anyone has any leads to please pass along the information. It was asked if transportation is provided for the participants and the answer is yes. If opportunities arise and transportation is an issue we will do our best to work that situation out.

**Consent Agenda:**

- April 15, 2020 Minutes
- Approve 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials
- Approve EMSI ROI Updated Report EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists International)

**Outcome:** Lindy Lee Gold made a motion to approve all the items under Consent. Susan Pierson offered a second. All were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

**Committee Updates -**

**Finance & Audit: Renata Dixon/Susan Mertz**

Renata Dixon stated that the Proposed Budget FY20 shows no significant changes. Susan said we assumed level funding with a small increase in benefits of 5.6%. It also includes a line item for the proposed move of the Hartford AJC. It was suggested by Stephen Vaughan that we should have a column for COVID related expenses that won't occur until next year. It was asked if there are any areas of concern? Alex stated only if rescissions are made to the state budget.



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**GOVERNANCE: Sheldon Bustow**

Sheldon presented the slate of Officers, and Committee Leadership FY 20/21 to the Board.

**Outcome:** Lindy Lee Gold made a motion to cast one ballot for the slates presented. Paula Gilberto offered a second; all were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

Sheldon presented the list of expiring Board members. We have 2 current Board members who are not seeking reappointment, Terry Borjeson who has retired from the State Parole Board and Joseph Toner.

**Outcome:** Lindy Lee Gold made a motion to cast one ballot for the slate presented. Jon Colman offered a second; all were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

**FUTURE WORKFORCE SERVICES: Mike Komaromi**

Mike thanked Kim and her team on providing the committee with such detailed information. Mike gave a brief description and mentioned that the committee is seeking the acceptance of the WIOA Youth Allocations. Future Workforce Service Committee is recommending \$2.08M in funding for FY21 to provide services to 206 new participants, 227 carry-ins participants and 320 youth in follow-up. All providers are recommended for 12-month renewals with corrective action plans and technical assistance that will target any underperformed measures. Funding has increased from \$1.7M to \$2M between FY20 and FY21. This increase reflects: an added part time Peer Support position to each contract, the elimination of the YouthBuild pilot, under-obligated funds from FY20 resulting in higher carry-in, and shifting Synergy costs from Governor's Reserve to WIOA.

**Outcome:** Mike Komaromi made a motion to accept the WIOA Youth Allocation Plan. Jon Colman offered a second. Todd Andrews abstained, the remainder were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

Mike Komaromi FWS Committee is recommending \$2,516,721 in funding for FY21 to serve 1,354 Summer Youth participants. SYELP 2020 program planning has been focused primarily on mitigating dangers of the COVID health crisis and maximizing participation and program value.

**Outcome:** Mike Komaromi made a motion to accept the SYELP Budget Allocation Plan; Jon Colman offered a second; all were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried. Alex mentioned that if any rescissions are made to the state budget then our plans would change but we will keep the Board up to date.

**ONE STOP SERVICES – John Simoneau**

John Simoneau gave a recap of the work of EDSI since coming on board last August. EDSI focused on staffing, training, creating the most effective services delivery model, and performing a comprehensive file review during the initial 6 months of the contract. They have continued to effectively serve customers and proactively addressed any performance concerns by streamlining several internal processes including DWG, ITA, weekly internal audits and internal referrals. John asked the Board to accept the One-Stop Allocation Plan.

**Outcome:** John Simoneau made a motion to accept the One-Stop Allocation Plan. Jon Colman offered a second; all were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

Alex mentioned that EDSI has been working extremely hard since coming on board and especially during these unprecedented times. While we are closed to the public EDSI has been challenged and has been attaining goals. John Simoneau stated that Alex and his team are doing an excellent job working with EDSI remotely and continuing to serve.

**President/CEO Report: Alex Johnson**



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Alex included in the meeting packet a copy of our re-opening phases schedule. He will continue to keep the Board up to date with actual reopening dates. He stated that there will be a detailed training protocol for all employees. A survey was sent out to all employees and 1/3 are somewhat apprehensive on returning to work. The good news is that we have met and exceeded our timelines and goals working remotely. Alex said he does feel an urgency in reopening the AJC's as some of the participants need the hands-on support we provide. Garret Moran asked that we share our reopening plan with the other 4 workforce boards. It was asked if we will have a screening protocol in place when we reopen and the answer is yes we are just not sure if we will have a vendor or an app. To monitor. Fiona Mohring offered to work with our HR department on the reopening.

Alex stated we have been very busy continuing our work and looking for possible funding opportunities. Included in the meeting packet is a list of grants and the status of each to date. We recently were awarded \$60,000 for JPMorgan. Alex included a copy of a flyer for Skill Up which is a free online learning tool to upgrade skills while folks are out of work. In addition, we have a call center with the details and hours of operation.

Chairman Mongellow thanked Alex and his staff for a job well done. He announced that the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last meeting for the year. It will start at 8am and run for 90 minutes. More information will be forthcoming.

### **ADJOURN**

Chairman Mongellow called for a motion to adjourn at 9:27am. Jon Colman made the motion which was seconded by Sheldon Bustow. All were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

APPROVED