



Board of Directors Meeting
December 8, 2021 at 8:00am
Zoom Virtual Meeting Hartford CT

Attendees: Todd Andrews, Bettina Armour, Sheldon Bustow, Jon Colman, Katie D’Agostino, Jennifer DiBella, Renata Dixon, Paula Gilberto, Lindy Lee Gold, Richard McGeary, Sandy Mello, Fiona Mohring, Tom Mongellow, Phillip Montgomery, John Nimmons, Marcy Reed, Jonathan Richmond, Lisa Sementilli, John Simoneau, Dan Tapper, Stephen Vaughan, Susan White, and Lyle Wray

Staff: Alex Johnson, Kim Staley, Jim Boucher, Yolanda Rivera, Ben Hensley, Laura Hitt, and Liz Saunders

Absent: Vinnie Valente, G. Duncan Harris, and Tracy Nixon-Moore

Guests: Mike Kordowski, Martine Kennedy, Pirelette Jones, and Christopher Kennedy

Chairman Richard McGeary called the meeting to order at 8:02am

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

Chairman’s Report:

- Richard McGeary thanked everyone for attending.
- Chairman McGeary acknowledged 2 Directors who are stepping down Jon Colman who has been serving on the CWP since 2003 and Paula Gilberto who has been serving since 2010. A small tribute was made to each of them. Both were awarded an opportunity to say a few words as well as fellow Board members.
- Chairman McGeary announced that we will be having a Holiday Celebration at CWP on Tuesday December 21st starting at 3pm. Please RSVP to Liz no later than Tuesday December 14th.

Legislative Update – Tom Mongellow

Tom Mongellow reported on the state level that the Bonding commission is scheduled to meet tomorrow. He hasn’t heard that the meeting was cancelled. We have \$5million which has been allocated but not awarded. Lindy heard that the meeting has been cancelled. More to come on that topic. There was lots of activity with the elections and a lot of new Chief Elected Officials. Alex will be reaching out to them. The state elections are in 2022 and much activity around who will replace Comptroller Lembo and a “plethora” of candidates for Secretary of State position.

Mission Moment: Second Chance Program – Jim Boucher, Ben Hensley and Yolanda Rivera

- Developed through I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) model for returning citizens
- First launched as a statewide pilot but has remained regional pending additional commitments to expansion
- Initial investments also included stipends, paid work experiences, and supportive services – which remain crucial to program success
- Primary funders included State of CT and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Represents strong partnerships with statewide and regional stakeholders, coordinated through the CWP Jobs Funnel as backbone
- Supported by dedicated team of CWP Jobs Funnel staff
- High levels of participant engagement and retention demonstrated

Statewide Arrests

- Sharp decrease in new arrests in the early months of the pandemic, which was compounded with some backlogs in the court system.

Discretionary Release

- Significant year-over-year increase in discretionary releases for people with six months or more left on their sentence (April 2019 to 2020)

Takeaways



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- General need for increased supports for the large number of individuals released during pandemic with prior justice involvement
- Potential need for increased services and supports for population now being released to community supervision (with likely higher proportion of longer sentenced individuals)
- Despite COVID challenges, BEST Chance has been able to serve returning citizens through:
- Strong connection with DOC (pre-release) and strong relationship with Parole Offices
- Strong relationship with CPA and Halfway Houses, and even during COVID, working directly with them to support recruitment and engagement
- In partnership with Greater Hartford Reentry Welcome Center and other stakeholders, BEST Chance is the leading provider of workforce development services and skills training for Returning Citizens
- Yolanda Rivera spoke on the outcomes from the program. The statistics are from February 2016 to present:
- Over **452** participants earning at least 1 Industry Based Certificate
- **1,349** total industry-based credentials issued
- Up to **431** Employed in Manufacturing, Construction, Culinary, Other
- 80% Job Retention Historically
- State Dept of Labor, The Hartford Foundation
- Leveraging of American Jobs Center and Partner Supports
- Participants spoke on how this program has helped them and gave their personal stories Christopher Kennedy, Pirelette Jones, and Martine Kennedy spoke on behalf of Jovan Lumpkin who couldn't join us in person.

Consent Agenda:

- Approve September 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Approve FY22 Development Committee Workplan
- Approve Quarterly Financials for period ending 9-30-21
- Approve Revenue Projections

Outcome: Lindy lee Gold made a motion to approve all the items under Consent. Sandy Mello offered a second. All were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.

Finance Report: Laura Hitt & Stephen Vaughan

- **Approve Quarterly Financials 9-30-21, and Review Updated FY22 Revenue Projections**

Stephen presented the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Activities, and the Budget verses actual as of September 30, 2021. On the Statements of Financial Position, the following information was noted. Reduction in cash due to slow receipt of funds on the CARES grant. Grants Receivable is higher due to CARES funding still not received by 9/30/21 it was received in October. Grants receivables are related to federal and state funds. Contribution receivable are foundation funds. Decrease in accounts payable due to remaining PPP loan paid off and correlates to low cash on hand. Accrued expenses decreased due to ITAs and OJTs have been significantly paid as they relate to DWG funds and that grant ends 9/30/21. For the Statement of Activities Stephen went over the three months ending 9-30-21. On the Budget vs. Actual Revenue is increased due to the new funds we are receiving see the revenue projection sheet, some contracts paid at the beginning of the year in full therefore these expenses will be leveled out throughout the year and significant Outreach done for CARES and Merit projects. Chairman McGeary stated that with Jon leaving it leaves an opening for Vice-Chair of the Finance & Audit committee. If anyone is interested, please let Chairman McGeary or President Johnson know.

- **Review Revenue Projections – Laura Hitt**

Laura outlined the changes in the projected revenue by Grant. Originally the revenue budget was \$26,592,691 and the revised FY22 revenue projection is \$28,806,633 and increase of \$2,213,942.



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1. JFES and WIOA had some carryover funds that were reallocated to the boards
2. Tech Talent/Year Up original budget was based on 150 participants but final is 100 participants
3. Merit America funds are from Tech Talent through OWS/DECD as a separate contract for 150 participants
4. MACH received an additional \$31,250 for a pilot program
5. DCF and CYEP were original entered as estimating and the new amount is in contract
6. CT DOL Job Funnel was increased, and additional funds received from another source
7. Opioid grant received by the state was less than original ask therefore our portion is less
8. Received 3-year contract with Dept of Aging and Disability to serve disabled youth
9. Received additional grants from other funders

Committee Updates -

Finance & Audit – Laura Hitt

Laura gave a brief update on the audit status. Things are going very smoothly, and she is happy with their work to date. This is Laura's first year doing year end and closeouts. She stated that she is a little behind, but the audit will wrap up in December and the presentation will be made to the committee at the January meeting. Stephen and Alex echoed that Laura is doing a tremendous job and that close out presented unique timing challenges.

Development – Alex Johnson/Bettina Armour

President Johnson stated that we had a successful first event. We look forward to making this an annual tradition and next year's date has been selected its September 8, 2022 at Keeney Park. We have started our planning process for 2022 and we hope to double our profit. President Johnson relayed that the Development Committee is looking for additional members.

DEI – Richard McGeary for Fiona Mohring

- Our first meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2022, the plan is to meet bimonthly. We have 8 committee members who will begin to work on finalizing our charter and a Board action plan.

President/CEO Report: Alex Johnson

Career ConneCT

- President Johnson spoke on the Career ConneCT program. The Governor and the CT General Assembly have prioritized workforce development this session by investing \$110 million in programs that get people back to work in better jobs than before, while addressing the systemic issues that have been plaguing our workforce system for generations. CareerConneCT creates opportunities for students to progress in career pathways leading to jobs in Connecticut's fastest growing industries; unemployed workers to reskill and enter new, higher-wage, careers; and communities of color to overcome systemic barriers they have faced in education, training, and employment.

ADJOURN

Chairman McGeary called for a motion to adjourn at 9:36am. and wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. Lindy Lee Gold made the motion which was seconded by Lyle Wray. All were in favor; none opposed; the motion carried.