

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Grant Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2020

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via teleconference at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair, at 12:30 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair  
Peter Lisi, Board Chair  
Barbara B. Lindsay, Esq.  
Susan Martin

OTHER BOARD  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Angelini  
Lawrence Davis  
Darrell Hill  
Alan Mattamana

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
Debrah Galli, Manager, Administrative Services  
Daniel Giungi, Communication and Legislative Affairs Specialist  
Eileen MacDonald, Senior Transaction Specialist  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller  
Michael Morris, Managing Director, Client Services  
Cynthia D. Peoples-H, Managing Director, Operations & Finance  
Kara Stuart, Administrative Services Assistant  
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager  
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

GUESTS: Carol O'Donnell, Executive Director, Early Childhood Funder  
Collaborative  
Bill Villano, President, Workforce Alliance<sup>2</sup>  
Jill Watson, Manager of Special Grants and Projects, Workforce  
Alliance<sup>3</sup>

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2020 Grant Committee Special Meeting. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Lindsay.

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<sup>1</sup> All attendees participated in the meeting via conference telephone that permitted all parties to hear each other

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Villano joined the teleconference at 12:46 p.m.

<sup>3</sup> Ms. Watson joined the teleconference at 12:46 p.m.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

**AYES**

Barbara B. Lindsay  
Peter Lisi  
Dr. Estela Lopez  
Susan Martin

**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

None

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub introduced Ms. Carol O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Funder Collaborative, a program of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Carol O’Donnell, Executive Director, Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (ECFC), a program of the CT Council for Philanthropy**

Ms. O’Donnell gave a presentation, including an overview on the following topics related to the Connecticut Early Childhood Funder Collaborative:

- Mission
- Overview
- Evolution
- History and Milestones
- Issue Framework
- Work Plan Development
- Overall Accomplishments
- Lessons Learned

Mr. Lisi referenced “lack of metrics in terms of ECE outcomes makes work more challenging” on the lessons learned slide of the presentation. Mr. Lisi inquired about whether it is a lack of metrics or a lack of agreement on what metrics should be utilized. A brief discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez opened the floor up to questions and a discussion ensued.

Ms. O’Donnell noted the many ways CHEFA has been a key partner in the Connecticut Early Childhood Funder Collaborative’s work, including: Two Generation legislation, CT CARES for Family Childcare and the FY 2021 CHEFA COVID-19 grant made to support this effort, business engagement with CHEFA staff outreach and a subsequent meeting with the ECFC leadership and the CT Business and Industry Association (CBIA) regarding childcare needs of business employees, and active engaged participation.

Ms. Weldon noted that in addition to the philanthropic side, CHEFA is also involved in financing childcare and is currently working on ways to reinvigorate CHEFA’s childcare lending program.

Dr. Lopez thanked Ms. O’Donnell for her time and presentation.

Ms. O’Donnell left the teleconference at 1:03 p.m.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub introduced Mr. Bill Villano, President of Workforce Alliance and Chair of the Workforce Development Council, and Ms. Jill Watson, Manager of Special Grants and Projects for Workforce Alliance.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that the upcoming presentation would primarily cover the fiscal year 2019 \$500,000 Connecticut Workforce Development Council Training and Barrier Removal grant. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that CHEFA also awarded two grants to the statewide Workforce Development Boards in 2020, \$250,000 for the same initiative but expanded for other at-need sectors, and \$250,000 for Opportunity Youth First Time Employment. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub said these grants would also be discussed later in the presentation.

### **GRANT FOLLOW UP**

#### **FY 2019 CT Workforce Development Council, Training and Barrier Removal Grant – Bill Villano, President, Workforce Alliance; Jill Watson, Manager of Special Grants and Projects, Workforce Alliance**

Mr. Villano provided the following information on the scale up evidenced based, demand driven job training models:

- Goal was to increase job readiness and gain industry recognized credential attainment for individuals with barriers to enrolling in and completing training.
- CHEFA funds provided flexible resources to fill gaps in training and support services resources.
- Boards utilized a demand-driven model that provides customized training leading to available jobs.
- Initial focus was on manufacturing and health care sectors for FY 2019 and was later expanded to include additional in-demand sectors for the FY 2020 grant.
- Critical element of this program are flex funds that address barriers to training and employment such as transportation, childcare, work clothing, certification fees and others.

Mr. Villano then provided a summary on the demographics and outcomes of the participants, as well as some customer stories. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Villano provided the following information on the Workforce barrier removal and training grant:

- Initial design built on proven success of providing flex funds for training, employment and support services.
- By mid-March, COVID- 19 shutdowns forced unprecedented number to apply for unemployment
- Distancing requirements shut down classroom training and confined people to their homes.
- The workforce boards requested and were granted authority to implement an on-line training model where FY 2020 CHEFA funds were utilized.

Mr. Villano gave an overview on the following topics related to the Metrix learning program:

- Training options are provided through the Metrix platform.
- Career pathways is a major element of the Metrix platform.
- SkillUp CT activity - May 4, 2020 through November 1, 2020.

Mr. Villano noted that these options and opportunities would not have been possible without the awarded CHEFA grant funds.

Dr. Lopez opened the floor up to questions and a brief discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez thanked Mr. Villano and Ms. Watson for their time and presentation.

**CLOSING REMARKS AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

Dr. Lopez reminded Board members of the CHEFA Nonprofit Forum Webinar to be held on December 9th at 9:30 a.m., A “So What” View of Connecticut’s Changing Demographics’ with Orlando Rodriguez, Public Policy Specialist.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 1:33 p.m., Dr. Lopez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Lindsay seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

**AYES**

Barbara B. Lindsay  
Peter Lisi  
Dr. Estela Lopez  
Susan Martin

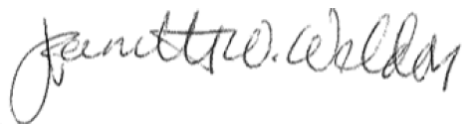
**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

None

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director