

## The WorkPlace

### Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Development Board

#### Board of Directors Meeting

June 16, 2023

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bing Carbone, Modern Plastics  
Cindy Rafael, BRS  
Clodmiro Falcon, The Falcon Vargas Group  
David Morgan, Team Inc.  
Gary Feldman, US Computer Connection  
Jim Oddo, Exec. Search Professionals  
John Loeser, CVS Health  
Julie DeMarco, Bigelow CTR For Sr Activities  
Leon Bailey, CFGNH  
Loni Richards, Service After Service

Mary Burgard, Vocational Rehab  
Matt Seebeck, SoNo Properties  
Meghan Hopkins, Operations Inc.  
Nicole Russo, MicroBoard  
Pablo Colon, Avangrid  
Thomas Coley, CT State Community College  
Victor Fuda, Connecticut Department of Labor  
Willie McBride, WC McBride Electrical Contractors Resolution  
Win Oppel, AD-MERICA CORP

#### OTHER PRESENT:

Al Carbone, Avangrid  
Al Gopian, The WorkPlace  
Alexa Williams, The WorkPlace  
Alexandra Langston, The WorkPlace  
Alfred Henderson, The WorkPlace  
Andrea Smith, The WorkPlace  
Angela Jackson, The WorkPlace  
Angela Wright-Holder, The WorkPlace  
Angie Llanos, The WorkPlace  
Anne Leskow, The WorkPlace  
Araceli Marquez, The WorkPlace  
Arnold Johnson, The WorkPlace  
Ashley Holtkamp, The WorkPlace  
Barbara Mari, The WorkPlace  
Barbera Mazzonna  
Ben Schuster, The WorkPlace  
Beth Barton, The WorkPlace  
Carol English, The WorkPlace  
Cathy Patton, The WorkPlace  
Cristina Alcantara, The WorkPlace  
  
Margaret Sheahan, Mitchell & Sheahan

Cal Glazier, The WorkPlace  
Charles Wilson, The WorkPlace  
Constanza Benzant, The WorkPlace  
Corey King, The WorkPlace  
Davonnah Monk, The WorkPlace  
Dean Furness, The WorkPlace  
Deb Oliver, The WorkPlace  
Debbie Venditti, The WorkPlace  
Dennis Proto, Ansonia Public School  
Desiree Brooks, The WorkPlace  
Destiney Nogueira, The WorkPlace  
Diana Napier, The WorkPlace  
Don Robinson, The WorkPlace  
Dwayne Miller, The WorkPlace  
Elaine Mucherino, The WorkPlace  
Elizabeth Acevedo, The WorkPlace  
Elle Serendi, The WorkPlace  
Elra Harris, The WorkPlace  
Esley Romano, The WorkPlace  
Francheska Beato, The WorkPlace  
Frank Biancur, The WorkPlace

Gloria Falkowski, The WorkPlace  
Gloria Perez, The WorkPlace  
Grixalix Montes-Rodriguez, The WorkPlace  
Hailey Gerena, The WorkPlace  
Ilissa Torres, The WorkPlace  
Jane Sikand Edelstein, The WorkPlace  
Janet Williams, The WorkPlace  
Janice Bruno, The WorkPlace  
Jasmin Reyes, The WorkPlace  
Jason Galassi, The WorkPlace  
Jennifer Colon, The WorkPlace  
Joanni Council, The WorkPlace  
John Szymanski, The WorkPlace  
Jon Smith, The WorkPlace  
Jose Pizarro, The WorkPlace  
Joselito Perez, The WorkPlace  
Joseph DiBacco. Ansonia Public School  
Katherine Krueger, The WorkPlace  
Kayla Montenez, The WorkPlace  
Kelly Switala, The WorkPlace  
Kimberly Hare, the WorkPlace  
Leigh Roberts, The WorkPlace  
Libby Johnson, The WorkPlace  
Lisa Maloney, The WorkPlace  
Lisandrey DeJesus, The WorkPlace  
Lorenzo Brooks, The WorkPlace  
Lori Burgos, The WorkPlace  
Louie Reyes, The WorkPlace  
Maria Bartoli, The WorkPlace  
Maria Hernandez, The WorkPlace  
Maria LaRoche, The WorkPlace  
Maria Matarazzo, The WorkPlace  
Mario Sarro, The WorkPlace  
Marjae Jackson, The WorkPlace  
Marlon White, The WorkPlace  
Mary Dunleavy, The WorkPlace  
Matt Ritter. CT State Representative  
Maurice Douglas, The WorkPlace  
Maurice White, The WorkPlace  
Melanie Blanco, The WorkPlace  
Michael Gordan, The WorkPlace

Michael Hayden, The WorkPlace  
Michael McCarthy, The WorkPlace  
Michael Stokes, The WorkPlace  
Michelle Artis, The WorkPlace  
Michelle Cruz, The WorkPlace  
Mirlande Pressat, The WorkPlace  
Monica McGinnis, The WorkPlace  
Morgan Esdaile, The WorkPlace  
Nicole Brewster, The WorkPlace  
Nygel Wynter, The WorkPlace  
Pandora Williams, , The WorkPlace  
Paula Breeden, The WorkPlace  
Phillip Foster, The WorkPlace  
Pricillia Santiago, The WorkPlace  
Rakiya Bello, The WorkPlace  
Randy Troutman, The WorkPlace  
Ray Hodge, The WorkPlace  
Robert Frost, The WorkPlace  
Samantha Santos, The WorkPlace  
Scott Wilderman, Career Resources  
Sean Fredriksen , the WorkPlace  
Shanice Goffe, The WorkPlace  
Shannon Rule, The WorkPlace  
Sheila Steffen, The WorkPlace  
Sheila Wiggins-Blathers, The WorkPlace  
Shelly Ameri, The WorkPlace  
Shenika Slow, The WorkPlace  
Shirl Watson, The WorkPlace  
Stewart Battle, The WorkPlace  
Tarrol Stafford, The WorkPlace  
Teree Perkins, The WorkPlace  
Tiffany Johnson, The WorkPlace  
Tim DeMarco, The WorkPlace  
Todd Munn, The WorkPlace  
Todd Seitzinger, The WorkPlace  
Tracey Sampson, The WorkPlace  
Victoria Medina, The WorkPlace  
Vincent Santilli, Homes for the Brave  
Yvette Garcia, The WorkPlace

Mr. Bailey called the meeting to order at 8:15am.

Mr. Carbone began by sharing that he is paying tribute to two (2) Board Members that have done extraordinary work. Dr. Leon Bailey, Chairman and Atty. Margaret Sheahan, Vice Chairman. They've provided 45 years of service combined to The WorkPlace. Mr. Carbone thanked both of them for their efforts which helped to grow The WorkPlace from a local community non-profit to a national leader in workforce development.

Several Board members and staff paid tribute to these outstanding leaders.

### President's Report

**SWCT Companies Ranked on the FORTUNE 500 List of Largest Corporations:** Fortune 500 is an important status for a private business sector to reach. In total, this year's Fortune 500 companies represent two-thirds of the U.S gross domestic product with about \$18 trillion in revenues.

Below are a few companies that have presence in our region:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Ranked</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Charter Communications	79	\$54 Billion
Philip Morris International	128	\$31.8 Billion
Synchrony	235	\$17.5 Billion
Booking Holdings	243	\$17.1 Billion
United Rentals	355	\$11.6 Billion

**Mixed Economic Data:** Gross Domestic Product increased by 1.3% during Q1 2023. The size of the economy is expanding and generating more production and income.

Job gains continue at a healthy pace. Total U.S. nonfarm payroll employment increased by 339,000 in May. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 3.7% in May.

**Why the Labor Shortage could be here to stay:** More Americans are getting older, fertility rates are declining and the increase in life expectancy is expected to lead to a drop in the percentage of the working age population. Many older Americans are working longer than ever but still retire at some point. This demographic trend was in place prior to Covid-19 but was accelerated by the pandemic, which pushed many older workers into retirement.

The job market is strong and "prime age" workers are indeed working. The labor force participation rate among those aged 25-53 is now 83.3% which is slightly higher from February 2020.



Health and Human Services also awarded TWP \$2.9 million to train and place 300 Community Healthcare Workers.

HCA will help individuals enter the healthcare industry and support them through a career progression to middle-skill positions, such as LPNs and high-skill positions such as RNs.

HCA recent activity:

- Attended nine outreach events this quarter
- 238 individuals attended information sessions
- 928 applications received across CT
- 311 Completed Eligibility
- 132 individuals have begun training

**Competitive Grants:** The current list of awards since July 1 of last year is on of the greatest that The WorkPlace has received.

Name	Source	Length	Requested	Status	Submitted / Awarded
SSVF Extra	VA	48 months	\$666,738	Awarded	7/22/2022
EPA Brownfields	EPA	5 years	\$500,000	Awarded	8/2/2022
Real Jobs RI (Year Up)	RI	1 Year	\$165,000	Awarded	9/16/2022
DOJ Pre- and Post-Release Project	DOJ	3 years	\$899,957	Awarded	10/15/2022
CareerConnect (State of CT) HCA	CT- Office of Workforce Strategy	4 years	\$7,800,000	Awarded	9/1/2022
CareerConnect (State of CT) RW	CT- Office of Workforce Strategy	4 years	\$669,608	Awarded	9/1/2022
VT SCSEP	VT Dept of Vocational Rehabilitation	15 months	\$425,000	Awarded	1/27/2023
Community Health Care Worker	HHS	3 years	\$2,899,966	Awarded	11/8/2022
Nursing Expansion	US DOL	5 years	\$2,997,368	Awarded	1/20/2023
RemoteWorks	Congress/US DOL	1 year	\$1,000,000	Awarded	3/14/2023
SSVF	VA	1 year	\$1,333,475	Pending	2/10/2023
Pathways 4	DOL ETA	42 months	\$2,499,999	Pending	4/21/2023
Providence AJC	City of Providence	1 year +	\$175,000	Pending	4/24/2023
SCSEP IT Support	DOL ETA	1 year +	\$230,425	Pending	5/1/2023
Bryne JAG	OPM State of CT	6 months	\$120,000	Pending	5/8/2023
MaturityWorks	US DOL	12 months	\$11,792,600	Pending	6/14/2023
			Sub-Total Awarded	\$18,023,637	
			Sub-Total Pending	\$16,151,499	

**Driven to Serve:** Since June of last year TWP has brought in over 15 million dollars which is over a 15% increase from last year.

	<u>March 2023</u>	<u>June 2023</u>
Public Funding	\$299,700,503	\$321,649,787
Partner with business and foundation	\$13,343,404	\$13,418,281
Fee for service	\$18,699,682	\$19,412,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$331,743,589</b>	<b>\$354,480,800</b>

Mr. Carbone concluded his report by thanking Board Members, Community Partners, Funders, Elected Officials, Staff and friends of TWP.

**Board Business:**

A motion was made and seconded to accept minutes from the March 17, 2023 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Bailey welcomed our guest speaker, Representative Matt Ritter. Mr. Ritter serves as the Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives.

Guest speaker Matt Ritter began by thanking TWP for allowing him to be a speaker, he appreciates the work that TWP does, the training TWP provides, the lives TWP impacts. He shared that TWP graduation is a unique experience for an individual. He opened the floor to any questions and spoke about the following topics:

- The significance of the outcomes of the most recent legislative session
- Worker shortage
- Mental Health
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation improvement for the state

Representative Ritter discussed during the recent session he was proud of HB-5001 and the work that was done with families their children and individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. He shared that the bill passed 151 to 0 in about five minutes and he has never seen anything like that. This legislative session addressed funding, how people age out with housing waiting lists and Increasing the age where kids can stay in school until 22 years old based on their birth dates. Every session has its positive moments and in terms of voting rights it was the most successful session he has been a part of.

He concluded by thanking everyone, he appreciates the kind words, hard work and dedication.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Bailey called for a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24am. The next Board meeting will be held on September 15,2023.

Submitted by,

Tiffany Johnson, Executive Assistant TWP