

CEDS Working Group – DRAFT Minutes

05/17/2018 at 9:00am

CRCOG Conference Room
241 Main Street, Fourth Floor
Hartford, CT

Committee Members in Attendance

John Shemo (by phone) – MetroHartford Alliance
John Carson – University of Hartford
Becky Nolan – Metro Hartford Alliance
Jim Burke – Town of Windsor
Mark Pellegrini – Town of Windsor Locks
Lyle Wray – CRCOG
Tim Malone – CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski – CRCOG
Hedy Ayers – CRCOG
Chelsea Burket (by phone) – Fourth Economy
Rich Overmoyer (by phone) – Fourth Economy

Additional Attendees

Supriyo SB Chatterjee, John Antonich

The Meeting Started at 9:10 AM

1) Update on MetroHartford Alliance / CEO Advisory Group

Tim Malone gave an overview of a meeting held between CRCOG, HFPG, and the MetroHartford Alliance. The discussion included the potential for the formation of a CEO Advisory Group by the Alliance.

2) Update on Schedule / next steps

Chelsea Burket gave an overview of the project schedule and next steps. She went over the plan for the next advisory committee, as well as the planned strategy group meetings scheduled for June 26 and 27.

3) Input on Strategy Group Stakeholders

Chelsea discussed the list of stakeholders who will be contacted about attending the strategy groups and asked if there were any particular groups or individuals who should be invited. Tim Malone said he could send out the list for input from the committee.

4) Situational assessment review

Chelsea gave an overview of the draft situational assessment. Comments included:

Workforce of tomorrow

- SB 535 just passed with \$50 million for workforce training, which should be discussed
- Goal should include: employers have the skilled employees they need and we're not leaving other people behind
- will probably end up looking at gaps in existing programs and their scale
- It might make sense to combine strategies 3 and 4
- Should focus on workforce needs within the individual sectors
 - one of the things that's emerging around the country is a cluster-driven approach
- Vet the strategies and specifically ask the sectors

Vibrant quality of place

- broken into two separate groups
- for number 3 it doesn't say enough to say that it's regional
- need to bring the list down to a more manageable size
- it seems like there needs to be something more about what is required to create a vibrant place
- we have a lot of summary materials about vibrant places that we could use to describe what we're trying to achieve
- a breakthrough on housing would be a game-changer
- need to think bigger on number 6

Enhance regional collaboration

- Make this the first one
 - Businesses want to see something done on a level other than the local level
- It may not be as hard if the focus is on regional collaboration around economic development
 - Bullet one: to collaborate and promote the region
- Should inform DECD about this effort, as it's a small enough state that the region and state need to work together
- David Griggs is taking a stronger stand that the Alliance will be the entity and will work with the towns and the state on it

Indicators

Chelsea presented a list of potential indicators and asked which indicators would have the biggest impact. She also presented a draft list of potential benchmark regions. She noted that all the proposed benchmark regions have grown their economies and their populations. The committee provided comments:

- People liked the list as it included both peers and aspirational regions
- It was noted that many of them are state capitals
- It was suggested that Des Moines be added

- It was asked if we are pushing healthcare, and if so, should we be looking at Nashville?
- It was asked if it is important to look at a chart like this or is it important to look at ourselves and whether or not we're growing?
- It was also noted that comparing GDP to other regions based on specific clusters may not make sense; we may need to look at industry specific indicators
- For equity concerns, it was suggested to use family living wage by race and ethnicity
- Another suggestion was to look at the ALICE program

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.