

CEDS Working Group – DRAFT Minutes

07/31/2018 at 9:00am

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

Working Group Members in Attendance

Scott Gaul – Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
John Shemo (by phone) – MetroHartford Alliance
John Carson – University of Hartford
Becky Nolan – Metro Hartford Alliance
Elliot Ginsberg (by phone) – Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology
Timothy Stewart – Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce
Yanil Teron – Center for Latino Progress
Mark Pellegrini – Windsor Locks
Lyle Wray – CRCOG
Tim Malone – CRCOG
Hedy Ayers – CRCOG
Chelsea Burket (by phone) – Fourth Economy
Rich Overmoyer (by phone) – Fourth Economy

The Meeting Started at 9:05 AM

1) Overview of June Strategy Group Sessions

Tim Malone and Chelsea Burket gave an overview of a series of strategy group sessions that were held in June. The stakeholders in attendance helped the team refine each of the potential strategies that were previously developed.

2) Overview of revised draft strategies

Chelsea Burket gave an overview of the refined list of strategies. She explained each strategy, including: existing programs, potential partners, and changes to the action. Working Group members discussed each of the strategies and provided input. A summary of input:

- Create a coordinated, regional approach to business attraction and retention
 - CRCOG and the towns need to be involved
- Develop a cross-sector entity to create and drive regional projects
 - Need to think about how it is organized

- Need clear ownership (don't currently have)
 - Needs to be an early action
- Attract and support startups
 - Didn't have a very representative group
 - Need to talk to individual accelerators and incubators
 - Need a better understanding of what is currently being done
 - More coordination
 - Scale is an issue
 - Should consider approaching South American companies
- Coordinated industry partnership for training
 - Three groups to focus on: kids in high school; transition to college; returning workers
 - Need to make sure we don't reinvent the wheel and understand what is already happening in this space
- Enhance quality of place to retain and attract talent
 - Community support is the hardest part, but also the most important
 - Developers rely on state funds right now
 - Need to work on changing the mindset of people in the towns
 - The issue is always multi-family housing
- Connect and promote existing cultural and recreational amenities
 - Need to focus on funding
 - Need to document what is here and promote it
 - Need to consider alternative modes of transportation

3) Update on schedule/next steps

Chelsea discussed the next steps, including an advisory committee meeting, second set of meetings on the strategies, and the further refinement of the strategies.

4) Input on stakeholder outreach

It was suggested that the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education should be engaged in the process.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.