

**Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Meeting
Via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting
September 9, 2021**

Minutes

Members Present: Kelly Williams, Robin Cullers, Michelle Stewart, Carrie Akins, Alan Crawley, Elaine T. Hardee, Tracy Latham, Christy Lombardi, Brian Miller, Dr. Maureen Murphy, Mike Scott, Stephanie Witte, Therese Wolf

Members Absent: Michelle Nicholson, Marcia Keeth, Patti Meszaros, Dr. Christine L. Bergmark, Marcia Chase, Stacey Cook, Pennie Drinkard, Seth Erlin, Michael Ghosh, Cindy Rauner, Doris Cammack-Spencer, Michael E. Young

Staff Present: Ruthy Davis, Melinda Bowling, Belinda Denton, Sandy Faucheux, Greg Holtz, Ashley Raley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Kelly Williams, Vice Chair.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Kelly opened the meeting with a warm welcome and acknowledgement of attendees.

MISSION MOMENT

Greg Holtz provided a success story about Justus Gatewood, a successful participant from the Youth Program.

BUSINESS

- A quorum was established.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021, meeting was made by Stephanie Witte, seconded by Christy Lombardi, and carried.
- A motion to approve the consent agenda documents was made by Christy Lombardi, seconded by Dr. Maureen Murphy and carried.
- A motion to approve procurement of Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland as the One Stop Operator was made by Alan Crawley, seconded by Michelle Stewart and carried.

WORKFORCE BUDGET UPDATE

Melinda Bowling provided an update on the budget including review of a graph from this year verses previous years.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND BRIDGE HIRES

Ruthy Davis spoke about the project and TCCSMD's involvement. Belinda Denton reported that out of 200 referrals that were made by TCCSMD, 32 positions individuals were hired.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Ruthy Davis provided an update on the program. Team Members have now been hired and are attending outreach events. One participant has received ARPA funding to continue their education at CSM after her parents were economically affected by COVID.

AMERICAN JOB CENTER RE-OPENING

Ruthy Davis provided an update on the AJC re-openings since July 6th. There was much anticipation that the majority of the visitors to the AJCs would be Unemployment Insurance related. This has not been the case. In July, the Waldorf Comprehensive Center received 511 visitors, of which 182 were Unemployment Insurance related, Lexington Park AJC received 111 visitors in July, of which 20 were Unemployment Insurance related. In August, Waldorf received 410 visitors, of which, 96 were Unemployment Insurance related and Lexington Park received 75 visitors in July, of which 9 were Unemployment Insurance related. September is trending in the same direction.

VIRTUAL COUNTY SPECIFIC HIRING EVENTS

Belinda Denton provided details on the county specific virtual hiring events that have been held and are upcoming and reported that virtual platforms are working very well. Below are data from the county specific hiring events:

- **Calvert – July 21st, 36 job seekers, 10 businesses participated, 7 hired**
- **Charles – August 19, 77 job seekers, 15 businesses participated, 100 interviews conducted, 7 hired**
- **St. Mary’s – to be held September 14th**

The annual regional hiring event will now be held twice a year in the spring and fall. The next regional hiring event will be held on October 12th.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) UPDATE

Greg provided an update on the SYEP which is nearing completion. 100 youth participated, up from 80 last year. 97 participants were enrolled in paid training utilizing the platform “14 Elements” (27 Calvert, 50 Charles, 20 St. Mary’s) and 3 were enrolled in paid employment. 89% have completed the 14 Elements training with 11 participants are set to complete by September 30th. All participants will receive the \$1,200 stipend for participating. For the first time, all three counties provided funding for the program.

Public Comment & Announcements:

There were no public comments or announcements.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Robin Cullers, seconded by Dr. Maureen Murphy, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53am.