

Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Meeting
Via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting
June 8, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Cindy Rauner, Michelle Stewart, Carrie Akins, Marcia Chase, Stacey Cook, Alan Crawley, Judith Ferrara, Brian Miller, Tami Radisch, Mike Scott, Katherine Stormont, Dr. Yolanda S. Wilson, Kelly Winters, Stephanie Witte, Michael Young

Members Absent: Kelly Williams, Robin Cullers, Dr. Christine L. Bergmark, Pennie Drinkard, Seth Erlin, Michael Ghosh, Christy Lombardi, Therese Wolf

Guests Present: Ken Lemberg, Governor's Workforce Development Board, Bethany Lee, Spring Youth Program Participant

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Cindy Rauner, Chair.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Cindy Rauner opened the meeting with a warm welcome and introduction of attendees.

MISSION MOMENT

Daryl introduced the guest for the Mission Moment, Bethany Lee, Youth Program participant. Ms. Lee provided details of the success she had during the fall youth program. She started in the ARPA program and was introduced to the Youth Program. Prior to COVID, she had not been employed in a professional setting. Thanks to the Youth Program, she not only gained the soft skills she was missing by utilizing SkillUp Southern Maryland, but she also successfully gained employment and has received two raises since being employed. Daryl commented on the great progress and maturity he has seen with Ms. Lee throughout the program.

BUSINESS

- A quorum was established.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2023, Workforce Development Board meeting was made by Stacey Cook, seconded by Dr. Yolanda Wilson, and carried.
- A motion to approve the consent agenda documents was made by Stacey Cook, seconded by Alan Crawley, and carried.

LOCAL PLAN & MOU/RSA

Ruthy informed the members the Local Plan and MOU/RSA were submitted on time to the state as discussed in the last board meeting. The Local Plan was submitted on May 1st, and the MOU/RSA was submitted on June 1st. Next step is to wait for review and comment from Maryland Department of Labor.

MD LABOR PROGRAMMATIC MONITORING

Briana provided an update on the programmatic monitoring by Maryland Department of Labor. They are currently in the process of wrapping up the PY22 monitoring. The feedback so far is positive for consistency and thoroughness of the case notes. Currently, there are no official findings. Maryland Department of Labor will follow up soon with a final report.

ST. MARY'S AJC RELOCATION UPDATE

Briana provided an update on the relocation of the St. Mary's AJC. The AJC is in a great location, directly on Route 235 in California. Since opening, there have been 130 visitors. Along with individuals, there have also been partners utilizing the AJC including Maryland Department of Labor/Veterans. There are plans to hold a grand opening with no specific date yet. We anticipate holding it in September after the adjoining suite is acquired which is anticipated at the end of July.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CONSTRUCTION – 2ND COHORT

Briana provided an update on the current FOC class. The class commenced with 10 students and moved forward with 8 students. Next week is the final week of the class. This group was again a great group of students and really seemed to bond during the class. At the conclusion of the course, the students will have an opportunity to meet with interested construction companies who are looking for additional workforce.

YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATES

Daryl provided updates on the Spring and Summer Youth Programs. The Spring program was successful with 39 participants: 12 from Calvert County, 15 from Charles County and 12 from St. Mary's County. The program transitioned from the previous platform used "14 Elements" to "SkillUp Southern Maryland." Feedback from the participants was very positive. The Summer Youth Program will run from July 10th through August 18th. As with last year's program, this year's program will consist of both virtual placement and on-site placement at local employers. The plan is to provide 10 participants from each county with the virtual platform and the rest on site placements: Calvert County 12 participants, Charles County 22 participants and St. Mary's 12 participants. The number of participants per county depends on the amount of funding received from each county. This year, there have already been over 300 youth that have registered for the program.

2023 Hiring Events

Belinda provided details on the upcoming annual hiring event. The event will be held on August 23, 2023, at the Mechanicsville VFD. A Community Resource Day will simultaneously be held in the back parking lot. There is room for 70 businesses inside the fire house for the job fair and room for 40 resource partners at the Community Resource Fair. Registration opens on June 9th and will begin to be heavily marketed on July 1st. Next year's annual fair will be held at the end of spring as in previous years.

Belinda also provided data on the county specific hiring events held recently:

Calvert County

- held March 16th
- 15 businesses attended
- 60 jobseekers attended
 - 37 online
 - 23 in person
- 2 confirmed hired from the event

St. Mary's County

- Held April 27th
- 25 businesses attended
- 137 jobseekers attended
- 7 confirmed hired from the event

Charles County

- Being held today
- 32 businesses registered
- 160 Job Seekers Registered

RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

Greg provided an update on the program. This Saturday he and Henry Franklin from MD Dept. of Labor will be attending the Master Touch event. Hosted by the Men's Empowerment Outreach, a group of men whose sons play in the NFL. Focus is on empowering men. Tuesday he will be meeting with Mr. Pratt at the Calvert County Detention Center working on restarting the empowerment zone that was established previously. April 29th Greg attended the Prince George's County Returning Citizens Summit and hopes to create a similar program here in Southern Maryland.

MARYLAND BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATION UPDATE

Ruthy provided updates on the initiative. March 15th, all counties, CSM and TCCSMD submitted their plans to the State. Currently they are working on the MOUs with each school system. Yesterday, St. Mary's County, CSM and TCCSMD completed their MOUs, and the other 2 counties are not far behind. All are working together to create similar programs in all 3 counties. This program goes into effect this upcoming 2023-2024 school year. TCCSMD is hiring 4 team members: 1 manager and 3 coordinators, one for each county. The counties are hiring Career Advisors.

NEW BOARD MEMBER SOLICITATION

Cindy and Ruthy spoke about the new board member solicitation. There are currently a few vacancies on the board that need to be filled. They must be in current positions of policy making, in charge of hiring or engaged in what workforce does within their organization. Board members benefit by obtaining great information on what's happening regionally with workforce. If anyone knows of anyone that may be interested in serving on the board, please let Ruthy know.

Public Comment & Announcements:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Carrie Akins, seconded by Stacey Cook, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 10: 40 am.