

**Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Meeting
Via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting
September 14, 2023**

Minutes

Members Present: Cindy Rauner, Kelly Williams, Robin Cullers, Michelle Stewart, Carrie Akins, Laura Askins, Marcia Chase, Alan Crawley, Mike Scott, Stephanie Witte. Michael Young

Members Absent: Dr. Christine L. Bergmark, Stacey Cook, Pennie Drinkard, Seth Erlin, Michael Ghosh, Christy Lombardi, Brian Miller, Tami Radisch, Katherine Stormont, Dr. Yolonda S. Wilson, Therese Wolf

Guests Present: James Thompson, Deputy Public Works Officer NAVFACSYSCOM Washington

Staff Present: John Hartline, Ruthy Davis, Briana Capuano, Jackie Chembars, Belinda Denton, Sandy Faucheux, Daryl Rice, Yvette Turner

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

Jackie introduced the guest for the Mission Moment, James, Thompson, Deputy Public Works Officer NAVFACSYSCOM Washington. Mr. Thompson provided details of the success his organization has experienced since working with Jackie and TCCSMD. Prior to collaborating with the B.E.S. Team, they consistently held 25% in vacancies in the past several years. They held several job fairs on their own, however, the largest influx of applicants they have seen in years was at the recent TCCSMD hosted job fair. Mr. Thompson remarked, “Working with Jackie has been a blessing in disguise! We had 117% turn out at the first Job Fair with TCCSMD! This not only impacts our county but the Nation.” Jackie is looking forward to continuing to work with Mr. Thompson in the future.

BUSINESS

- A quorum was established.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2023, Workforce Development Board meeting was made by Robin Cullers, seconded by Stephanie Witte, and carried.
- A motion to approve the consent agenda documents was made by Marcia Chase, seconded by Robin Cullers, and carried.

GRAND OPENING – St. Mary’s County American Job Center & New MCC Unveiling

Ruthy announced the Grand Opening and new MCC unveiling to be held on September 26, 2023, at 1:30 pm. Invitations have been sent to all elected officials including the Governor and Lt. Governor, Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Wu, and Assistant Secretary of Labor Erin Roth. The new Mobile Career Center arrived on August 16th and will be showcased during the Grand Opening event.

12th ANNUAL REGIONAL HIRING EVENT & FAMILY RESOURCE DAY

Belinda introduced Yvette Turner and Briana Capuano who provided an overview of the Hiring Event and Family Resource Day, held on August 23rd at the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire

Department. Photos of the successful events were shared, and the following data was provided. Resources available at the family resource day included free haircuts, childcare, giveaways, and bounce houses.

Hiring Event

- 729 Jobseekers Attended
- 68 Hiring Businesses
- 10 sponsors
- 2 confirmed hired*

*Typically, a 3-4 week hiring process, confirmed hires are not available immediately.

Family Resource Day

- 164 Residents attended
- 32 Community Partners
- 250 filled book bags provided by businesses
- 6 gift baskets given away

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Daryl provided an update on the Summer Youth Program. The program is currently in the process of wrapping up for this year. All participants successfully completed the program. This summer for the first year since Covid there were more on-site employment opportunities. The number of participants per county was dependent upon Funding provided by each county.

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|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Calvert County | 11 Virtual Participants | 12 On-Site Employment Participants |
| Charles County | 11 Virtual Participants | 22 On-Site Employment Participants |
| St. Mary's County | 8 Virtual Participants | 13 On-Site Employment Participants |

There was an increase in interest from local businesses this summer. Two employers in Calvert County extended full-time employment offers to two participants, Charles County extended two full time employment opportunities to youth participants, and St. Mary's extended a part time and a full-time employment offer to two youth participants.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CONSTRUCTION – 2ND COHORT

Briana provided an update on the 2nd Cohort of the Fundamentals of Construction class. Four out of the seven participants are currently employed. Work continues with the other three participants to assist them in gaining employment. We are currently recruiting for our next cohort, set to begin on October 31st.

MONITORING/AUDIT UPDATES

Briana provided updates on the recent monitoring/audits. Thus far, we have successfully completed monitoring with Maryland Labor and our third-party monitor MaryAnn Lawrence with Power Notes, LLC. Both audits resulted in zero findings. Two fiscal audits will be held in October and preparation has begun.

MARYLAND BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATION UPDATE

Ruthy provided updates on the Pillar 3-College and Career Readiness initiative of the Maryland Blueprint for Education. All counties have hired their career advisors. TCCMSD has hired a Blueprint Manager, Patti Meszaros. Patti's background fits perfectly with this initiative. Three specialists will be hired, one for each county. The Specialist for Charles County begins employment with us Monday, Erica Thomas, and an offer will be extended for the St. Mary's Specialist soon. Recruitment continues for the Calvert County Specialist. The Maryland Workforce Association's Raising the Bar Conference held in early September had a record attendance of over one thousand attendees. The conference included a large emphasis on the Maryland Blueprint.

Public Comment & Announcements:

Ruthy shared with the board the recent retreat provided for the Workforce staff. The retreat was facilitated by Tammy Ditzel which consisted of a one-day off-site meeting. The retreat focused on teamwork, how individuals work and how individuals work with others. Briana and Jackie provided the group with other details of their experience. Michelle would like more information on the retreat, and Belinda offered to introduce Michelle to Tammy.

John Hartline shared with the group details regarding the planning meeting for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Meeting held recently at the Calvert Marine Museum with over eighty attendees. The kickoff event was the largest in history with over 1,000 attendees at Piscataway Park. The plan takes three years to complete, and the National Heritage Area will receive up to \$1million a year.

Mr. Hartline also announced to the group that the date of the next Southern Maryland Reception is set for February 29th, 2024, in Annapolis, Maryland. Sponsorship opportunities are available including new sponsor levels. The reception will host featured products from Southern Maryland including farm products, wine, and spirits. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Stephanie Witte, seconded by Michelle Stewart, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.