

**Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Meeting
Via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting
June 12, 2025**

Minutes

Members Present: Cindy Rauner, Kelly Williams, Lee Greely, BJ Hall, Carrie Akins, Luara Askins, Stacey Cook, Alan Crawley, Kathy Guzman, Christy Lombardi, Heidi Lybarger, Brian Miller, Tami Radisch, Mike Scott, Christian Sorochty, Michelle Stewart, Michael Young,

Members Absent: Marcia Chase, Dr. Yolanda Wilson, Stephanie Witte, Alexis Zoss, Robin Cullers, Marcia Chase, Mike Alderson

Staff Present: John Hartline, Ruthy Davis, Sandy Faucheux, Belinda Denton, Yvette Turner, Amber Oakley, Melinda Bowling, Ashley Raley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Cindy Rauner, Chair.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

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

MISSION MOMENT

Katie Dexter from Wills Group, who participated in our 14th Annual Regional Hiring Event, shared her feedback on the event. Wills Group is the parent company to several brands including Dash In and Splash Car Wash. Katie reported that overall, the hiring event went well, exceeding her expectations. They had strong engagement throughout the event, and reported two solid hires, a front of house supervisor and a cashier. The candidates were very professional, well prepared, and genuinely interested in learning about the organization. They asked thoughtful questions about the company and its culture spoke about the quality of the event and the people participating.

BUSINESS

- A quorum was established.
- A motion to approve the minutes from March 13, 2025, Workforce Development Board meeting was made by Kathy Guzman, seconded by Brian Miller, and carried.
- A motion to approve the consent agenda documents was made by Laura Askins, seconded by Christy Lombardi, and carried.

Maryland's Skilled Immigrant Task Force: Supporting Skilled Immigrants in Their Workforce Integration - Joana Winningham – MD Labor

Joanna shared the work of her team at MD Labor that supports Internationally Trained Professionals (ITP) as an untapped talent pool. An ITP is defined as a work-authorized internationally born and internationally trained worker with at least two years of formal or informal, education, training, or on-the-job experience that has led to special skills, training, knowledge, and/or abilities for certain types of work. The goal is to connect employers with organizations serving ITPs in their employment goals

TCCSMD Workforce Staffing Updates

There are currently four vacancies, two career advisors and two blueprint program specialists. Newest to the organization are Adelind Vanskiver and Will Daniels, both career advisors. Cross

training of Career Advisors in underway, allowing advisors to serve all populations. Yvette Turner has been promoted to the role of Blueprint Program Manager.

14th Annual Hiring Event

The 14th Annual Hiring Event was held on May 14, 2025, at the College of Southern Maryland's La Plata Campus. There were 65 hiring businesses and 16 community resource partners. 1,146 jobseekers attended. Five individuals were hired on the spot. The St. Mary's County sheriff's office is considering 429 applicants. 52% of the jobseekers were from Charles County, 12% from St. Mary's County, 7% from Calvert County, 19% from Prince George's County, 9% from the greater DMV area. 30% of the attendees were either displaced federal workers or federal workers fearing displacement.

One Stop Operator Procurement

The One Stop Operator contract which expires June 30th has historically been held by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland with appropriate firewalls in place. Due to staffing shortages, TCCSMD is no longer able to perform this function, so an RFP was issued in May. Power Notes LLC, headed up by Mary Ann Lawrence, was awarded the contract.

Roads to Careers Grant

TCCSMD was awarded this grant in the amount of \$500,000 with a three-year period of performance beginning 6/1/25. The College of Southern Maryland is a subrecipient, providing basic workforce preparation and occupational skills training to the Adult Basic Education population.

New Start Grant

TCCSMD was awarded \$20,000 in additional funding for the New Start Program.

EARN Grant

\$72,000 out of \$100,000 allocated for training has been expended. Additional training is planned for July and to date 42 incumbent employees have received training.

Planning for September 11, 2025, Full Board Meeting

It was agreed that the agenda items covered today would be beneficial for the Full Board Meeting. Our contracted grant writer will attend to discuss our application for the new EARN solicitation.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lee Greely, seconded by Brian Miller, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.