

Howard County Workforce Development Board Meeting

September 17, 2021

Members Present:

Aphaia Harper, Dean Turner, Dr. Kindred, Dwight Carr, Gary Griffin, Julie Givens, Kenn Hamm, Lynn Song, Paul Pappas, Robert Hooten, Rosie Verratti, Stephanie Discepolo, Stephen Liggett-Creel

Guest & Staff:

Francine Trout, Heather Naviasky, Kenneth Lemberg, Marsha Netus, Mike Digiacomio, Mike Lawrence, Molly Mesnard, Ron Painter, Stephanie Hill

- I. **Welcome and Introductions- Dwight Carr**
Introductions were made by all.

- II. **Workforce Development Board Overview- Ronald Painter, CEO, National Association of Workforce Boards**
 - Mr. Painter gave an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Workforce Development Board (presentation to be sent to all members). He encouraged the board to look at trends, emerging issues and local data as a resource when setting board priorities.
 - Francine shared that Towson University had conducted a labor market study for the area during the pandemic. Labor market findings and projections could be helpful for the board in the planning stages.
 - Mr. Painter shared some background information on The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
 - WIOA was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.
 - Francine shared that WIOA is one of the major funders of the board/workforce development area. Additionally, the area has received other funds to assist job seekers and businesses with their workforce development needs. They are: ARP (American Rescue Plan) and MDRA (Maryland Relief Act). Funding under these grants are less restrictive in comparison to WIOA.
 - Mike DiGiacomo, Executive Director, Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWIB) was present and explained the role of the GWIB. He explained that the GWIB's role was to act as an ambassador and provide oversight to the 13 local

- workforce boards and American Job Service Centers. They meet on a quarterly basis and have 57 members.

III. Next Steps/FY22 Board Priorities

Chairman Carr shared possible board priorities and include:

- Last year's priorities which were increasing access to technology, exploring equity and access, updating the bylaws and reviewing/updating the board's website.
- To help determine the board's next steps, Chairman Carr proposed using the "Design thinking process" at the next board meeting to help set priorities for FY22. A majority of the board was familiar with this interactive/innovative problem-solving process.
- To prep for the process, members will be emailed the guest speakers presentation as a starting point.
- Mr. Painter offered his assistance to the board if additional guidance was needed.

IV. Upcoming Meetings/Logistics

- The board will conduct at least two in-person meetings per year.
- The next meeting will be held in person and will focus on board planning.
- Stephanie Hill shared information on how to obtain board announcement information. The board's website/information portal can be found here: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/wdb>
- The inclement weather policy was shared and are as follows- If Howard County Schools are closed or delayed, board meetings will be cancelled.
- Following the meeting, members will receive a link to a doodle poll where they can vote on the best meeting days and times.

V. Other Business/Board Update

- Members gave an update on their business/reopening statuses. Most, if not all members are back to work in person. Many continue to provide some form of virtual option for customers and staff.
- Prior to the end of the meeting, Chairman Carr announced that the board is seeking to fill the Vice Chair position. He asked that if anyone was interested or would like to nominate someone, please contact him, Francine Trout or Stephanie Hill via email.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Next Meeting: TBD