Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board
March 2, 2022
8:30 AM

Board Attendees: Michelle Bell Smith, Melissa Boone, John Cain, Mark Drury, Barbara Ebel, Steve Greenfield, Courtney Hall, Mary Lang, Beth Lash, Omar Lazo, Lesley MacDonald, Roxana Mejia, Helen Nixon, Yomi Ntewo, Sharon Strauss, Diego Uriburu, Ben Wu

Staff: Anthony Featherstone, Executive Director; Sarah Van De Weert, Director of Government & Board Relations

Other Attendees: Michael DiGiacomo, Executive Director, Governor's Workforce Development Board

CHAIRPERSON WELCOME
Mr. Drury welcomed all members. Motion to approve January minutes w/ no opposition.

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Mr. Giacomo provided a brief update about the work of the Governor's Workforce Development Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
- **Executive Committee** – Mr. Drury announced that a schedule for this committee needs to be established moving forward.
- **Programs Committee** – Ms. Smith reported that the committee met in February to review responses to questions submitted to WSM staff. Camille McKenzie, Director of Programs at WSM, was also in attendance. There was much discussion about how to recruit large businesses for board membership and Business Services engagement.
- **Employment Recovery Committee** – Ms. Nixon reported that the Committee met to discuss priorities and structure for future meetings. John Hattery, WSM Deputy Director of Workforce Services, attended as staff representative.
- **Business & Community Engagement Committee** – Ms. Lang reported that the Committee met with WSM Staff members to go over current business services engagement strategies and recent data points. The Committee will meet again soon and establish a regular schedule moving forward.

NEW MEMBER UPDATE
Ms. Van De Weert explained that five new member appointments will be confirmed by the in the coming week by the County Council. Mr. Featherstone & Ms. Van De Weert will host an orientation session for new members prior to the next full board meeting. During the next board meeting, an introduction of new members will take place.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- 2020-24 Local Workforce Plan Summary – Mr. Featherstone provided an update on the completion of the Local Plan.
- PY '21 Q2 Performance Report (see attached)
- Workforce Recovery Network RFP Update – Next steps include to have Thomas P. Miller & Associates, the contracted third party, to review applicants and rank them according to eligibility to receive grants. The final list of ranked potential awardees will then be reviewed by the Employment Recovery Committee. Mr. Featherstone will provide another update during the next meeting in May.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. UPDATE
Mr. Wu provided an update on the MCEDC's Strategic Plan, "Moving Forward Together." The report has been approved by the County Executive and has been presented to the County Council for review and approval which is expected in the coming month.

OPEN DISCUSSION
Mr. Featherstone advised that members should review the WIOA training modules attached in the agenda. He also announced that the Annual Joint Board Meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2022 – details to follow.

Ms. Strauss mentioned tax credit information and encouraged members to distribute the information to their networks as appropriate.

Mr. Lazo mentioned a potential partnership with a restaurant service association and WSM to offer Food Management and Alcohol Awareness Certification for those working in the service industry. Several other Board members and Mr. Bandeh expressed support for that partnership or new program initiative. Mr. Lazo also expressed concerned that the Germantown American Job Center is not open. Mr. Featherstone responded that there is not a concrete reopening date, but It should be within the next month. Once a date has been identified it will be shared with the Board. Necessary permits have been issued and staff is prepared to start.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:55 AM.

The next meeting will take place on May 4th, 2022 at 8:30 AM.