

Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board

May 4, 2022

8:30 AM

[Access recording via Zoom](#)

Passcode: *U5k=D!+

Board Attendees: Jewru Bandeh, Michelle Bell Smith, Mark Drury, Barbara Ebel, Chris Gordon, Steve Greenfield, Courtney Hall, Yamil Hernandez, Amelia Kalant, Mary Lang, Beth Lash, Omar Lazo, Roxana Mejia, Helen Nixon, Yomi Ntewo, Sharon Strauss, Christa Tichy, Diego Uriburu

Staff: Anthony Featherstone, Executive Director; Nate' Gordon, Deputy Director of Administration & Finance; John Hattery, Deputy Director of Workforce Services; Sarah Van De Weert, Director of Government & Board Relations

Other Attendees: Ken Lemberg

CHAIRPERSON WELCOME

Mr. Drury welcomed all members. Motion to approve March minutes with no opposition.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

New Board members Chris Gordon, Yamil Hernandez, Amelia Kalant, and Christa Tichy were introduced. Bios were attached to the meeting agenda for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Programs Committee** – Ms. Smith provided an update that the Committee met in April and Mr. Featherstone, Executive Director, joined their meeting. She explained that the group discussed the “Great Resignation” and how
- **Employment Recovery Committee** – Ms. Nixon was absent. Mr. Featherstone will provide an update during his Executive Director Report.
- **Business & Community Engagement Committee** – Mr. Greenfield provided an update on behalf of the Committee explaining that the draft FY 23 Workplan was discussed and what the performance indicators will be used to measure business and community engagement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- The latest Christmas tree report is not yet available but WSM has been informed that there has been improvement on two of the previous failed measures. Once the full report is available it will be provided to members.
- The County Council Joint-Committee Budget Hearing held on April 27th went well. The County Executive sent the budget request through as is and the Committee approved the same without any questions or concerns. Amelia Kalant and Kathleen McKirchy (WSM Board of Directors) were present for the hearing.
- Workforce Recovery Network RFP Update provided by Mr. Hattery:

- The recommended list of organizations by Thomas P. Miller & Associates (third party contractor) was provided to the Employment Recovery Committee for review and approval.
- Mr. Featherstone mentioned that WSM is expected to receive additional ARPA funds from the County and there is intention to use that for additional WRN purposes.
- Fiscal Year 2023 Workplan Draft presentation and discussion:
 - There was not a Workplan in place for FY 22 so there is a need for a structured plan and measurable performance. Mr. Featherstone reviewed the draft plan for the Board members and explained that a feedback form is available for all members to use through May 18th.
 - Mr. Hernandez asked if we were planning to compare our relative values to peer organizations. Mr. Featherstone explained that from an organizational standpoint WSM measures those things for WIOA. Some measures are unique to Montgomery County (ie: Community Impact).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. UPDATE

Mr. Wu was not in attendance.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Lazo asked about an event occurring at the Wheaton Job Center coming up. Mr. Featherstone asked Ms. Van De Weert to send the Quarterly Job Fair Flyer to the Board after the meeting.

Ms. Lang complimented Mr. Featherstone and the WSM Team for creating the metrics and sharing them to begin the process of accountability.

Mr. Featherstone thanked Ms. Ebel and her staff for their partnership at the American Job Center. He also thanked Mr. Bandeh for his partnership throughout the County budget process.

Ms. Van De Weert reminded the members that the Annual Joint Meeting is coming up on June 15th and asked all present to take a Zoom poll to indicate how they would like the meeting presented – virtually, in-person, or hybrid. She will be in touch with more detail soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:26 AM by Mr. Drury. Seconded by Mr. Lazo.

The next meeting will take place on July 6th, 2022 at 8:30 AM.