

**Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board\***  
**May 3, 2023**  
**8:30 AM**

\*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed via [Zoom](#) with passcode: j%+j!93p  
NOTE: Video time stamps are provided for each agenda item below.

**Board Attendees:** Kevin Armstrong, Jewru Bandeh, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Jamie Carmen, Stephanie Crane, Barbara Ebel, Wyatt Genser, Scott Goldberg, Steve Greenfield, Courtney Hall, Yamil Hernández, Amelia Kalant, Mahesh Kalva, Mary Lang, Beth Lash, Omar Lazo, Nagender Madavaram, Susan Marks, Yomi Ntewo, Conrad Samuels, Grant Shmelzer, Michelle Bell Smith, Sharon Strauss, Christa Tichy, Bill Tompkins, Diego Uriburu

**Staff Attendees:** Anthony Featherstone, Cynthia Grissom, Naté Gordon, John Sparico, Sarah Van De Weert

**Other Attendees:** Ken Lemberg, Deputy Director, Governor's Workforce Development Board

1. **Call to Order** at 8:34 am (recording unavailable).
2. **Approval of March Meeting Minutes** – approved without objection (recording unavailable).
3. **NAWB Forum Insights (:10)**

Mr. Lazo shared some information about the NAWB Conference that he and several other board members attended in March. He stated that there was a lot of conversation about apprenticeships at the national level. He opened it up for others to share insights from the conference. Mr. Hernández shared insights from the sessions/workshops he attended including thoughts on new board member orientations. Ms. Kalant noted that several boards had direct partnerships with social services, particularly childcare services. Mr. Lazo mentioned that WSM shares space in the Upcounty Regional Services Center with the Upcounty HUB. Mr. Featherstone explained that WSM has a close partnership with the HUB and that both organizations have a strong referral process to one another. He also noted that integrated social services within the workforce development system is something that we, as a Board and County, may want to look further into. Mr. Lazo mentioned that Las Vegas, NV has developed a system of workforce services available in all public libraries. Mr. Featherstone explained the Las Vegas model in greater detail.
4. **Committee Reports (11:35)**
  - a. Life Sciences/IT – Mr. Hernández noted that the committee was not able to meet during April.
  - b. Construction/Transportation – In place of Mr. Drury, Ms. Tichy provided an update on the April meeting and what committee members have been up to recently.

- c. Health/Hospitality – Dr. Bruton explained that the committee focused on apprenticeship opportunities and how to establish and grow them. They also discussed the major barriers faced by employers in the two industries when recruiting job seekers. This discussion continued openly with several other members contributing questions/comments.
- d. Youth/Young Adult – Ms. Ebel provided an update in place of Mr. Madavaram. The Committee spent the majority of their time discussing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and how that impacts the Board's work moving forward. Mr. Featherstone provided an update on where the planning process was for the Board's portion of the Blueprint responsibilities, Career & College Readiness. This conversation continued for several minutes with other Board members contributing thoughts/ideas about what's currently going on in the County as it relates to the work WSM is doing with MCPS, MC, and USG.

## **5. Executive Director Report (49:38)**

- a. Youth Contract Extension – Mr. Featherstone explained that the Youth & Young Adult Committee approved the contract extensions with Eckerd Connects and LAYC/Identity, Inc. to continue providing the WIOA Out-of-School Youth programming for WSM. Mr. Lazo asked who is responsible for approving contracts/extensions. Mr. Featherstone explained that the Executive Committee would generally be responsible for contract extensions and then the WSM Board of Directors would ensure that the contract could be executed successfully.
- b. County Executive Meeting Update – Mr. Featherstone provided an update on the meeting that WSM Staff and Chair Lazo attending with County Executive Marc Elrich and the items that were presented to him at that time.
- c. FY 24 Workplan Review – Mr. Featherstone provided an update on the new FY 24 Workplan for WSM which includes the following priorities: business and community engagement, talent pipeline development, system building, WIOA performance, and career education. He then opened it up for discussion. Mr. Lazo emphasizes the focus on youth in workforce development moving forward. Mr. Bandeh shared that the County Executive was very pleased with the WIOA performance improvement by WSM. The County Executive would also like WSM and other related entities to investigate developing career pathways. Mr. Greenfield shared that employer/business engagement is one of the biggest challenges they've seen at Montgomery County in developing pathways. Mr. Hernández asked if there was an opportunity for intergovernmental connectivity to avoid duplicative work when requested information/collecting data from employers and businesses. Mr. Featherstone noted that the system building priority in the Workplan relates directly to that.
- d. FY 24 Budget Update – Mr. Featherstone presented the FY 24 budget and budget structure providing details on revenue, program, and expense projections.

## **6. Local Plan Update (1:21:00)**

Ms. Van De Weert informed the Board that the 2020-2024 Plan was due for an update and where WSM is in the process and that submission to the State is due July 1.

**7. Open Discussion/Q&A (1:22:35)**

Mr. Hall expressed gratitude for the development and continued support of/from the Workforce Recovery Network (WRN).

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.