Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board*
August 2, 2023
8:30 AM

*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed via Zoom with passcode: Xw4VMzT?
NOTE: Video time stamps are provided for each agenda item below.

Board Attendees: Kevin Armstrong, Jewru Bandeh, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Jamie Carmen, Stephanie Crane, Mark Drury, Barbara Ebel, Donna Gabriel (proxy for Courtney Hall), Scott Goldberg, Yamil Hernández, Amelia Kalant, Mahesh Kalva, Mary Lang, Beth Lash, Omar Lazo, Nagender Madavaram, Roxie Mejia, Conrad Samuels, Grant Shmelzer, Michelle Bell Smith, Sharon Strauss, Christa Tichy, Bill Tompkins, Diego Uriburu

Staff Attendees: Sara Assadullah, Melissa Cunningham, Anthony Featherstone, Naté Gordon, John Hattery, Jessica Issoufou, Sarah Van De Weert

Other Attendees: Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive; Scott Mengebier, Director of Research, United Way, National Capital Area

1. **Call to Order** at 8:38 am (0:00).

2. **Approval of May Meeting Minutes** – approved without objection (:45).

3. **Committee Reports (2:06)**
   a. Health/Hospitality – Dr. Bruton explained that the Committee welcomed a new member, Stephanie Crane. The group continued the discussion on increasing the pipeline. Blueprint updates were received and then the group reviewed the County's budget distribution, focusing on Health & Human Services and Economic Development.
   b. Life Sciences/IT (4:57) – Mr. Hernández noted that the Committee discussed the GROW event held by WSM earlier in the month and how to begin mapping IT training services in the County.
   c. Construction/Transportation (6:10) – Did not meet.
   d. Youth/Young Adult (6:45)– Mr. Madavaram explained that one of the Committee's primary goals is to maintain and continue the Workforce Recovery Network (WRN) and WSM has been granted an additional $600K which is intended to be used to create an internal Youth Department. The Blueprint plan and the current hiring schedule was also discussed.

4. **Presentation on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) by Stephanie Crane & Scott Mengebier, United Way, National Capital Area (13:45)**
   Ms. Crane and Mr. Mengebier presented in-depth information on their most recent ALICE study using the US Census data. For the full presentation, please contact Sarah Van De Weert at svandeweert@worksourcemontgomery.com.

5. **County Executive Address (38:35)**
   Mr. Elrich addressed the full Board explaining that more affordable housing is needed in the County and that several families are living below the poverty line. He

explained that his administration is bringing forward more proposals for increased affordable housing. He remained in the meeting to field questions and comments from Members.

6. **Continuation of ALICE Presentation (1:05:20)**

Ms. Crane explained that the United Way's programs are focused in three main areas: health, education, economic opportunity. They also work to identify and eliminate barriers that families experience while trying to access healthcare, education, and economic opportunity. Ms. Crane and Mr. Mengebier fielded several questions and comments.

7. **Policies for Approval* (1:11:49)**

Ms. Gordon, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, WSM, provided an overview of two policies that were recently updated that require Board approval.

   a. On-The-Job Training Policy provides wage reimbursement to employers for up to 75% of wages. WSM updated the policy to reflect SAM.gov requirements and changed the reimbursement period for businesses from three to six months. The policy revision also changed the maximum wage requirement from $15 to whatever the industry standard wage is regionally. In Mr. Lazo's absence, Ms. Tichy, Vice Chair, called for a motion of approval.
   b. Ms. Gordon provided a Supportive Services Policy update. Mr. Featherstone requested a motion to approve at 10:03 am.

8. **Motion to Adjourn (1:26:50)**

*Appropriate voting procedures were not completed for items listed in #7. The vote was collected via e-mail after the meeting concluded and will be ratified during the next meeting on October 4, 2023.