

Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board*
June 5, 2024
8:30 AM

*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed via [Zoom](#) with passcode: ^2kmd^YS
NOTE: Video time stamps are provided for each agenda item below.

Board Attendees: Kevin Armstrong, Jewru Bandeh, Dr. James Bridgers, Dr. Sonya Bruton, James Carmen, Todd Cohen, Stephanie Crane, Mark Drury, Courtney Hall, Scott Goldberg, Steve Greenfield, Yamil Hernández, Shant'a Johnson, Mary Lang, Omar Lazo, Nagender Madavaram, Natalie Mitchell, Dr. Peggy Pugh, Conrad Samuels, Michelle Bell Smith, Christa Tichy

Other Attendees: Brad Turner-Little, Dr. Jermaine Williams

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Lazo called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM.
2. **Dr. Jermaine Williams, Montgomery College President (2:07)** provided opening remarks and a welcome to the new East County Education Center.
3. **April Meeting Minutes (6:48)** – approved without objection.
4. **Introduction of New Board Members (7:29)** – Mr. Lazo introduced new WDB members
 - a. Todd Cohen, Senior Manager, Strategic Workforce Initiatives, Lockheed Martin
 - b. Natalie Mitchell, Region 6 Director, Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)
5. **FY25 WIOA Contractors (10:40)** – Mr. Featherstone explained that WSM is seeking approval from the WDB to procure services from two incumbent contractors for WIOA services. Mr. Goldberg asked if there was any data available to support the recommendation to continue working with Eckerd Connects for One Stop Operator services. Mr. Featherstone explained that there is no hard data available, but that WSM has been pleased with their overall performance. Dr. Bridgers asked if there was additional monitoring language that could be included in the contract or survey responses from AJC partners to strengthen and reinforce the decision to work with Eckerd Connects. Motion to approve the contract was provided by Ms. Smith with several seconding the motion. Contract was approved unanimously.

The next contract up for approval was for Out-of-School-Youth services. The recommendation was to continue contracting with LAYC, Eckerd Connects, and Identity, Inc. for those services for one year with an option for an additional three years. Mr. Goldberg called for a motion to approve. The contract was approved unanimously.
6. **Introduction of Guest Speaker (24:45)** – Mr. Featherstone introduced Brad Turner-Little, President & CEO of National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), to provide remarks.

7. Committee Updates

- a. **Health/Hospitality (1:09:30)** – Dr. Bruton explained that the group convened to discuss what future meetings should look like. The Committee will launch a new meeting format in July and the goal is to remain on a topic until completion.
- b. **Construction/Transportation (1:13:42)** – Mr. Drury explained that scheduling committee meetings has been a challenge. Two people attended the previous meeting.
- c. **Life Sciences/IT (1:14:46)** – Ms. Van De Weert provided a brief update on behalf of Mr. Hernández. The Committee discussed meeting agendas and meeting format moving forward. They also reviewed data from MD DOL and had a lengthy discussion about the business mapping initiative that WSM is looking to undertake.
- d. **Youth/Young Adult (1:15:58)** – Mr. Madavaram explained that Mr. Featherstone presented the business resource mapping initiative to the Committee. Ms. Smith included that there is some interest from the Committee to either add a youth member to the Committee or to the WDB as a whole. Ms. Van De Weert explained that a non-voting seat could be included on the Board if the County Executive's office approves.

8. Executive Director Report (1:19:16)

– Mr. Featherstone presented the proposed FY25 Program Budget which included a reduction in WIOA funding in an amount of \$1.2M which could have a significant impact on the amount of people WSM serves. FY25 is also the last year ARPA funding will be included in the budget. He emphasized that securing private funding and foundational grants should be a priority moving forward. Total proposed budget is ~\$19M. The WSM Board of Directors will vote on the budget next week (June 12th).

Mr. Featherstone also provided a brief overview of the FY25 Workplan (1:29:53) which the WSM Board will also vote on in their next meeting.

9. Meeting adjourned by Mr. Lazo at 10:16.

Next Meeting: August 7, 2024 @ 8:30 AM via Zoom