

Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board*
February 4, 2025
8:30 AM

*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed via [Zoom](#) with passcode: 1%Em87Q!
NOTE: Video time stamps are provided for each item below.

Board Attendees: Kevin Armstrong, Jewru Bandeh, Michelle Bell, Dr. James Bridgers, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Todd Cohen, Stephanie Crane, Mark Drury, Barbara Ebel, Scott Goldberg, Yamil Hernández, Shantá Johnson, Amelia Kalant, Omar Lazo, Nagender Madavaram, Natalie Mitchell, Dr. Deirdre Price (proxy for MC), Grant Shmelzer, Christa Tichy

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Lazo called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.
2. **Introduction of New Member** – Mr. Lazo introduced Dr. Deidre Price, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and College Provost as the newest member of the WDB. Dr. Price provided some of her background for the group.
3. **October Meeting Minutes** – approved without objection.
4. **Committee Updates (11:54)**
 - **Health/Hospitality** – Dr. Bruton reported that the Committee discussed plans for the year and continual reductions in force for each sector and disconnect between federal workers being able to translate their skills and experience to available jobs. The group also discussed legislative topics, upcoming election cycle, and current challenges nonprofits are facing. After the update, Dr. Bridgers provided information on an upcoming grant to support healthcare worker pathways through the State Department of Labor and answered questions about CNAs credentials/testing.
 - **IT/Life Sciences (24:59)** – Ms. Cohen reported that the Committee is exploring an online career pathway tool for students, reviewed best practices, available resources, and ideas for collaborative approaches for the project moving forward.
 - **Construction/Transportation (32:37)** – Mr. Drury reported the Committee is particularly interested in high school pre-apprenticeship programs and ensuring that the biggest employers in the county (MCPS, MC, the County) are accepting students. Some discussion took place about how the Board could be of assistance with current challenges.
 - **Youth/Young Adult (39:48)** – Mr. Armstrong reported that the Committee welcomed the new youth member, Jolee Duong, from Richard Montgomery High School and a new intern with WSM, Celeste Kane. They will be participating in the Committee meetings and events moving forward.
5. **Governor's Workforce Development Board Presentation (41:49)** – Deputy Director of the Governor's WDB, Shuana Davis, provided an overview of what the GWDB does and how they assist the Governor in establishing workforce development policy and alignment across the state's workforce systems. She also briefly covered four WIOA policies that the state rolled out. Ms. Davis then discussed in detail the Workforce Pell grant opportunities coming down from the federal level. Other GWDB staff members

contributed to the conversation and answered questions.

- 6. DHHS Presentation & Updates (59:11)** – Dr. Bridgers and team members presented to the Board on workforce programs and legislative updates. One topic discussed at length was the changes that HR1 has implemented including eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits. Much of the following discussion and questions revolved around that topic.
- 7. Meeting Adjourned (1:35:13)** at 10:01 am.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2026 at 8:30 AM via Zoom.