

**Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board\***  
**October 1, 2025**  
**8:30 AM**

\*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed via [Zoom](#) with passcode: ejYV3nP&  
NOTE: Video time stamps are provided for each agenda item below.

**Board Attendees:** Kevin Armstrong, Jewru Bandeh, Michelle Bell, Dr. James Bridgers, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Stephanie Crane, James Carmen, Mark Drury, Barbara Ebel, Scott Goldberg, Yamil Hernández, Amelia Kalant, Omar Lazo, Manu Lizzio-Hashime (proxy for MCEDC), Natalie Mitchell, Christa Tichy

**Call to Order** – Mr. Lazo called the meeting to order at 8:46 am.

**August Meeting Minutes** – approved without objection.

**Committee Updates**

- **Health/Hospitality** – Dr. Bruton reported that the Committee discussed the federal workforce crisis and the challenges employers are experiencing when former federal employees apply for positions that do not align with their skill sets.
- **IT/Life Sciences** – Ms. Van De Weert provided an update on behalf of the Committee Chair.
- **Construction/Transportation** – Mr. Drury reported the Committee discussed challenges in placing student in training programs with MCPS or County government. Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez offered to assist with the challenges.
- **Youth/Young Adult** – Mr. Armstrong reported that the Committee was in the process of accepting applications and scheduling interviews for a new non-voting youth Committee member.

**(18:59) Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez** – Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez provided information on upcoming Sessions and Committee Hearings that related to workforce development. She informed the Board that the County created a Sports Tourism Task Force which is intended to increase economic and workforce development opportunities. The Task Force recently signed an MOU with the State Sports Authority to identify potential sports facilities for use. The Councilmember also discussed the current federal government shutdown and the pressing need for the new Federal Workforce Career Center (FWCC). Some updates about the new FWCC, including the upcoming ribbon cutting event, and how neighboring counties are handling the recent reductions in force followed.

**(39:43) Executive Director Update**

- Mr. Covin provided an update about the new FWCC, including the upcoming ribbon cutting event, and how neighboring counties are handling the recent reductions in force.
- (48:03) Mr. Featherstone provided an update in relation to the federal government shutdown and contingency plans that are in place if funding becomes an issue.
- (49:35) Mr. Featherstone reviewed WSM's Annual Performance report from the state, including the passaging/exceeding 15 of 18 measures. Of the

three measures failed, case reviews and files are being reviewed so that WSM will ensure performance is a priority.

- (53:53) Mr. Featherstone provided an overview of the FY27 budget request process with the County and the total request being \$3.3M (breakdown included in video).
- (57:08) Questions and discussion occurred about the performance requirements reported out previously (49:35) by Mr. Featherstone.

After discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Next Meeting: December 3, 2025 at 8:30 AM via Zoom.