

Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board (WDB)
November 4, 2020
8:30 AM

A full recording of this meeting can be accessed [via Zoom](#) using passcode 5yNtN*sc

Attendees: Mark Drury, Gordon Ellis, Barbara Ebel, Ben Wu, Diego Uriburu, Michelle Bell Smith, Jeff Guido, Lesley MacDonald, Yomi Ntewo, Derek Turner, Mahesh Kalva,

Staff: Sarah Van De Weert, Communications & Marketing Manager

WELCOME

Mr. Drury, Board Chair, welcomed those in attendance. First order of business was to provide an update on the Executive Director search and receive reports from committees.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Mr. Drury reviewed the selection committee structure and process – two people from the LWDB will be members of the selection committee. He informed the other Board members that the process is moving along. The deadline for applications was 10/26/20 and WSM received a total of nine applicants. The WSM Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for hiring the new Executive Director. Montgomery County Executive, Marc Elrich, and Councilmembers will be invited to meet with the final candidate(s).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee: Ms. Smith provided an update. The Committee still has questions and needs clarity on certain issues before putting recommendations to the full Board:

- Why was the position changed from CEO to Executive Director?
 - Mr. Drury - Former Active CEO Leonard Howie suggested that the position be adjusted and the title be changed.
- Has the County Council been involved in program management before?
 - Mr. Wu – The Board ultimately has governing authority over the organization. There is no direct connection with the County Executive or the Council, but both are very interested in helping to transform the organization and its mission. In reference to the 10/29 Council Committee Meeting, there was an agreement that the organization should move forward under the direction of the new Executive Director.
- There is an overall lack of satisfaction with current WIOA services being provided by Grant Associates (American Job Center contractor). Their current contract is valid through 6/30/21.
 - Ms. Ebel - Grant Associates need to be aware that there is an expected level of accountability and oversight of quality of services. It is the Program's Committee responsibility to ensure that they are meeting goals. The Committee is in the process of collecting performance data to share with the full Board.
 - Mr. Drury - The long term goal would be to eliminate contracting services and bring it in-house for WSM to manage.

- Mr. Ellis - The WIOA program run through the Job Center will be the immediate focus of the new Executive Director once they are on board.

Employment Recovery Committee: Ms. Ntewo provided an update. WSM has limited capacity right now between staff and resources. The Committee is awaiting recommendations from the Economic Recovery Group & Taskforce on 11/12/20.

Mr. Drury – We have to serve the displaced workforce and the business committee which has a need to fill their positions. WSM needs to know where the demand is and analyze the job seekers in need and then use county resources to place them appropriately. “WorkSource Montgomery will need to become the glue that pulls all of these things together.”

Mr. Wu – Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation would be willing to work together to establish a shared position/employee to focus on economic recovery and collaboration between EDC and WSM.

Ms. Ebel – The One-Stop-Operator position should be reviewed along with other positions within WSM to ensure that job functions are being carried out appropriately.

Business and Community Engagement Committee: Mr. Turner provided an update. There are talks to have a county-wide convening for workforce development in February 2021.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Drury announced that we have lost a few Board Members recently. There are a minimum of 25 members required and 13 need to be from the business community. With only 13 Members in attendance today, that's not enough. We need to evaluate who's missing and who we should identify as potential candidates. Suggestions should be sent to Mr. Drury.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Drury stated that LWDB should be working closely with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce to ensure that we have a good level of business engagement.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.

Next WDB Meeting – December 2, 2020 @ 8:30 AM