

Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board (WDB)*
April 7, 2021
8:30 AM

*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed [via Zoom](#) using passcode **.J.3Cq&6**

Attendees: Elaine Chang-Baxter, Melissa Boone, John Cain, Mark Drury, Barbara Ebel, Gordon Ellis, Steve Greenfield, Jennifer Hester, Melinda Hife, Mahesh Kalva, Mary Lang, Beth Lash, Omar Lazo, Lesley MacDonald, Yomi Nweto, Michelle Bell Smith, Derek Turner, Diego Uriburu, Ben Wu, unidentified phone attendees include 240-444-7000 and 301-725-3735

Staff: Anthony Featherstone, Executive Director; Sarah Van De Weert, Communications & Marketing Manager; Tina Edmundson, Administrative Coordinator; John Hattery, Director of Development

CHAIRPERSON WELCOME

Mr. Drury welcomed all members.

MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL

Mr. Drury motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, Mr. Uriburu seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all Board Members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Featherstone provided the Executive Director Report accompanied by a presentation (attached) including:

- Strategic Targets
 - Programs & Performance- WorkSource Montgomery (WSM) is working with training partners to put Montgomery County residents in training programs that lead to employment.
 - Funding- County and State pending respective approval. Mr. Featherstone highlighted the Summer Youth Program, Resource Sharing Agreement, and WorkSource Montgomery Mobile Unit which is included in relief grant. It will provide a long-term effect to market and enroll.
 - Local Plan- In final stage, next step is to hold stakeholder session which will be held on 4/20.
 - Procurement- WIOA Out-of-School Youth Program released 4/1. As for Adult/ Dislocated worker, WSM is working with current vendor to transition services.
 - Infrastructure- WSM is vetting Career Edge system to streamline and enhance their program.
 - WSM Personnel Growth- On schedule with hiring schedule to allow for direct service provision by 7/1. Mentioned new hire John Hattery, Director of Development, as well as new Administrative Coordinator and Director of Human Resources. WSM has a lot of their leadership in place, however, still has about 21 more people to hire that will deliver services to jobseekers, employers and handle administrative work.
- See attached slides for specific details and timelines for each target.

Legislative Updates –Featherstone stated Maryland General Assembly Bill SB894, Post Crisis Job Act of 2021 is widely supported on both sides. Will have huge implications for 13 workforce areas. Funding will provide \$960,000 of unrestricted dollars for Worksource Montgomery. Mr. Featherstone will keep board updated as bill moves through house.

- Mr. Drury asked if this was a multiple year allocation.
- Mr. Featherstone replied yes. He added that it will provide funding year over year through 2025 to \$60 million in total for workforce boards over the next five years. He stated this bill will have a significant impact. WorkSource Montgomery would like to focus on upscaling and how it can increase apprenticeship participation and create apprenticeship opportunities overall throughout the county.

WorkSource Montgomery & Workforce Development Boards Responsibilities

- Mr. Featherstone shared and reviewed the attached document that explains the shared and separated responsibilities of the WorkSource Montgomery and Workforce Development Boards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Employment Recovery Committee: Ms. Nweto was unavailable to provide an update.

Program Committee: Ms. Bell-Smith stated she is working to achieve the WorkSource Montgomery strategy based on previous discussions that included working with the Business Engagement Committee as well as outreach. They also discussed how they can partner with economic development boards, having incentives in place to employ and provide training for county residents, and the Summer Youth Program. She is ready to get programs in place where Montgomery County residents can benefit from them.

Business and Community Engagement Committee: Mr. Turner provided a brief update on the conversation about what the board can do to elevate WorkSource Montgomery and how they can bring the entire business community together and become a hub to have a shared vision about what's happening around workforce development in the county.

The discussion continued for several minutes about having a budget for a marketing campaign and forming a planning committee with other members agreeing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

The next meeting will take place on May 5, 2021 at 8:30 AM.