

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**DECEMBER 8, 2021 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: [MEET.GOOGLE.COM/RMN-MGFT-WWC](https://meet.google.com/rmn-mgft-wwc)**

**JOIN BY PHONE: 1-720-739-3011, PIN: 925 792 775#**



**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Louis Dubin (Chair)	Katarina Ennerfelt	Stephen K. Neal
Chris Sachse (Vice Chair)	Terry R. Gilleland, Jr.	Charles Ramos
A. Ferris Allen, III	Wanda Smith Gispert	Anton P. Ruesing, V
Mick Arnold	Steve Groenke	Lisa Rusyniak
Marco V. Ávila	Kevin D. Heffner	Marty Schwartz
John D. Barber, Jr.	Stacey Herman	Gerald "Jerry" Shapiro
Gary Bockrath	W. Marshall Knight, II	Michelle B. Smith
Jennifer Bodensiek	Sandra Kurtinitis	Teaera Strum
Andrea Chapdelaine	Larry Letow	Charles T. Wetherington
Michelle Day	Carl Livesay	Michelle J. Wright
Scott Dennis	Roya Mohadjer	Charnetia V. Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sam Abed	James D. Fielder	Lourdes R. Padilla
Vanessa Atterbeary	Robert L. Green	Tiffany P. Robinson
Carol Beatty	Rona E. Kramer	Edward C. Rothstein, Col. Ret.
Joanne C. Benson	Amie Long	Kelly M. Schulz
Alice Blayne-Allard	Gary Murdock	James A. Sears
Gavin Buckley	Rodney Oddoye	Leslie R. Simmons
Mohammad Choudhury	George W. Owings, III	William E. Simons

**GWDB STAFF**

Mike DiGiacomo	Ken Lemberg	Molly Mesnard
Darla Henson		

**GUESTS**

Tiara Booker-Dwyer	Mark Drury	Mary Kane
Barry Boseman	Molly Dugan	Heather Lageman
Emily Branchaw	Bruce England	Brian Lynch
Brian Calahan	John Feaster	Dylan McDonough
Nan Allen Chen	Lauren Gilwee	Meka McNeal
Natalie Clements	Chelsea Gregoire	Ed Mullan
Gary Cohen	Emily Haskel	Dwayne Myers
Noell Damron	Jake Hirsch-Allen	Marsha Netus
Marisa Dobson	Karin Holland	Denise Nooe

John Papagni  
Kristine Pearl  
Darlene Peregoy  
Matthew Pyne  
PYW Leadership  
Karen Riggione

Ed Roberts  
Erin Roth  
James Rzepkowski  
Emma Shirey  
Isaiah Smith  
Ryan Smith

Matthew Soehnge  
Steve Spector  
Jennifer Sproul  
Stephanie Starr  
Jacqueline 'Tina' Turner  
Rose Volynskiy

## **INTRODUCTIONS, OPENING REMARKS, and ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The meeting started officially at 3:30 PM, December 8, 2021, via Google Meets. Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Executive Director Michael DiGiacomo opened the meeting. He then turned the meeting over to Chair Louis Dubin and Vice Chair Chris Sachse for opening remarks. They thanked members for participating and wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Dubin asked if there were any updates that members of the Board wished to share. GWDB member Wanda Smith Gispert from MGM Resorts International shared about getting 180 trainees for their Table Dealer six-week training program. Her team utilized the Nextdoor website, where one can reach people, via zip code criteria, to target advertising within a certain geographic radius. Ms. Gispert also noted utilizing the local workforce development board and One-Stop/American Job Center.

GWDB member Mick Arnold spoke about Arnold Packaging's facility at Tradepoint Atlantic (new distribution center) and about a great panel discussion held there dealing with Offshore Wind and its opportunities. Board member Teaera Strum also spoke on this panel.

Chairman Dubin entertained a motion to approve the GWDB September 29, 2021, minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Dubin introduced three new members to the Board and encouraged them to further introduce themselves to other Board members:

- Anton Ruesing, replacing Andrew Larson, is with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), Finishing Trades Institute. He is the Executive Director of the Training Fund and Labor-Management Fund, after having served in a variety of previous positions in the Painting field.
- Marco Ávila, replacing Veronica Cool, is Chair and President (for the past two and a half years) of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a civil engineer at WSP (for over 24 years), which is involved with large infrastructure projects. He enjoys helping smaller businesses in conjunction with prime contractors.
- Ferris Allen, replacing Chad Nagel, is a Maryland Thoroughbred Horse Trainer and has been for over 40 years. He is on the board of the Maryland State Fair. He said that training race horses incorporates a highly diverse workforce.

Chairman Dubin thanked Veronica Cool, Andrew Larson, and Chad Nagel for their years of dedicated service to the Board, after they recently retired.

Chairman Dubin then turned the meeting back over to Mr. DiGiacomo. Mr. DiGiacomo indicated that the Board had planned to hold this December meeting in a hybrid format at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Catonsville campus, and virtually on Microsoft Teams, with a reception following the meeting. After receiving a limited number of Board members confirming their intention to attend in person, the GWDB Executive Committee agreed to move to an all virtual event. The Board is still determining the format for upcoming 2022 meetings, but the quarterly board meeting dates for 2022 can be found in the meeting materials.

Mr. DiGiacomo provided some additional updates. Ken Lemberg has been working with partners at the Maryland Department of Labor, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL), to review the 13 local workforce development board plans. Currently 10 of 13 local plans have been approved, and the rest are in the process of being approved. Ken has also reviewed the Career Preparation and Expansion Act draft report that the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center has prepared. This is an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the workforce outcomes of Maryland public high school graduates five years after they graduate. The report, once it is final, will be disseminated to all Board members.

Mr. DiGiacomo spoke about House Bill 1300, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which establishes a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee within the GWDB. He reminded the GWDB that the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) oversees the entire Blueprint and was established October 1, 2021. GWDB staff have been reaching out to prospective members to gauge their interest in serving on the CTE Committee and various subcommittees that will be established. A letter was recently sent out to Governor Hogan, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones with proposed members of the GWDB to serve on the CTE Committee, in addition to the State Superintendent of Schools, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor. GWDB staff will let Board members know as more is known about the status of establishing the CTE Committee.

Mr. DiGiacomo went on to share the sad news of the passing of Alan Paller, Founder of the SANS Institute. Mr. Paller was a cybersecurity pioneer who devoted his career to improving the digital defense of the U.S. Mr. Paller was a speaker and frequent guest at prior Board meetings. The GWDB worked closely with him on the National Cyber Scholarship Foundation, which hosted hacking challenges for high school and college students over many years. Thoughts and prayers go out to the Paller family.

GWDB member Gary Bockrath asked how local workforce development boards would deal with the Blueprint and be part of the plan. Mr. DiGiacomo indicated that local boards will collaborate with local CTE coordinators through local school systems and with local businesses. There is the opportunity to further build out the apprenticeship model. Molly Mesnard communicated that any businesses at the local level interested in CTE and that want to be part of the conversation should contact her or Mr. DiGiacomo. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Assistant State Superintendent Tiara Booker-Dwyer articulated that she was representing the State Superintendent of Schools. She noted that there is a CTE Director within each local school system, who would connect with the local workforce

boards. Community colleges also have CTE components on the credit and noncredit sides. There is a process for developing/approving CTE curriculum, in line with industry needs.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Next, Chairman Dubin introduced the meeting's first presentation speaker, Lauren Gilwee, Policy Director at DWDAL, who then gave a brief overview of the Maryland State Plan and the process for its updated submission in 2022. Ms. Gilwee presented the current timeline for revision and submission of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan 2022 for Maryland. A key timeline is that the State Plan draft will be released for the public comment period from December 13, 2021 to January 7, 2022. The draft document is expected to be about 500 pages in length. Submission of the State Plan will be by March 1, 2022, via online portal. Ms. Gilwee then referenced WIOA Maryland State Plan programs and administering agencies/partners. She particularly noted the newest partner in the 2022 WIOA State Plan: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Employment and Training, which is administered by the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS serves shared customers in the WIOA workforce system.

Finally, Ms. Gilwee discussed important information and discussion topics for the 2022 State Plan submission. To date, federal partners have not updated WIOA State Plan guidance; Maryland's partners will utilize the most recent instructional documentation. Areas of focus for the 2022 State Plan updates include:

- COVID-19 response, including partner investments via federal and state funding, as well as changes in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system;
- New State Plan partner of SNAP Employment and Training (DHS);
- Mid-Maryland local workforce development board area becoming now Howard County and Carroll County local board areas (now 13 local areas across Maryland, as of July 1, 2021);
- Opioid recovery – targeted investments, via correctional facilities and Maryland Department of Health;
- Professional development via the DWDAL Chief Learning Officer;
- Registered Apprenticeship and Youth Apprenticeship;
- Correctional Education and Reentry Services, including targeted efforts from Reentry Navigators;
- Homeless Jobseekers, including Interagency Council on Homelessness;
- New Americans and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders – connecting them to the workforce system;
- Renewed efforts on collaborative data through the Workforce Data Quality Initiative; and
- Mention of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (how the K-12 educational system and CTE are connecting with the workforce system).

Chairman Dubin thanked Ms. Gilwee for her presentation and encouraged Board members to reach out to DWDAL colleagues if they have any questions.

Next, Chairman Dubin introduced Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, President of CCBC, and a member of the GWDB, to give a presentation on the role of Community Colleges and the Workforce. Dr. Kurtinitis, with her

theme of “21<sup>st</sup> Century Colleges for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs,” communicated that there are 16 community colleges across Maryland and they play a major role in economic recovery. The colleges are a huge engine for workforce development. She went through demographics on who are the students and graduates of community college programs, including age, gender, and minority status. Much of the student population is eligible for financial aid (Pell, state scholarships, etc.). The community colleges are concerned with diversity, equity, and inclusion, and they work with challenged populations, such as SNAP. Community colleges have an open door policy, accessible to all. The education agenda is seen as an economic agenda. Community colleges offer a diverse set of training programs. For example, CCBC, in conjunction with Tradepoint Atlantic, offers a Truck Driver training program for Commercial Drivers License (CDL). Over 200 truck drivers have been trained, with \$27-\$28 hourly jobs. An economic impact study is conducted every five years on the impact of community colleges in Maryland, and the impact was found to be huge locally. Community college partners encompass: business/industry; four-year institutions; K-12 school systems; government; and community. In short, the world of work is changing, and Maryland community colleges are addressing the future of work via transformational academics.

Next, there was a question and answer discussion with Dr. Kurtinitis. GWDB member Anton Ruesing asked if there were articulation agreements or parallel paths available between community college programs and apprenticeship programs at the state level, rather than agreements just between individual programs. Dr. Kurtinitis referenced that CCBC was active in apprenticeship programs, such as cybersecurity (going beyond traditional trades). Maryland Department of Labor DWDAL Assistant Secretary Jim Rzepkowski spoke about the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) and about best practices and an active subcommittee (CCBC is on that subcommittee of the MATC, as well as the Maryland Higher Education Commission). DWDAL Deputy Assistant Secretary Erin Roth spoke about Maryland as a national model, with Anton Ruesing serving on a federal apprenticeship committee and Maryland State Apprenticeship Director Chris MacLarion serving on the National Association for State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD). It was pointed out that with the Blueprint legislation, there is a link between community colleges and local school system CTE Directors. GWDB member Wanda Smith Gispert indicated that she loves Prince Georges Community College and that they have been a great partner to her employer, MGM Resorts. Jake Hirsch-Allen, with the workforce development component of LinkedIn, commented about potential for community colleges partnering with LinkedIn, particularly in terms of career development. Chairman Dubin rounded out the discussion by emphasizing the benefit of connecting at the local level with local workforce development boards and workforce development delivery systems.

Finally, Chairman Dubin asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made and seconded. He wished everyone happy holidays and reminded all about being thankful. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Submitted by:

Kenneth Lemberg