

Meeting Minutes
JUNE 8, 2022 3:30 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: meet.google.com/zge-urgb-cfs

JOIN BY PHONE: 1-408-909-8307 PIN: 748 212 531#



MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Sachse (Vice Chair)
Marco V. Ávila
John D. Barber, Jr.
Carol Beatty
Alice Blayne-Allard
Gary Bockrath
Jennifer Bodensiek
Michelle Day
Scott Dennis
James D. Fielder
Wanda Smith Gispert
Steve Groenke

Kevin D. Heffner
Stacey Herman
Matthew Holloway
W. Marshall Knight, II
Rona E. Kramer
Sandra Kurtinitis
Carl Livesay
Amie Long
Linda Moss
Gary Murdock
Charles Ramos
Anton P. Reusing, V

Tiffany P. Robinson
Edward C. Rothstein, Col. Ret.
Lisa Rusyniak
Marty Schwartz
Gerald "Jerry" Shapiro
Michelle B. Smith
Teaera Strum
Charles T. Wetherington
Michelle J. Wright
Charnetia V. Young

MEMBERS ABSENT

Louis Dubin (Chair)
Sam Abed
A. Ferris Allen, III
Mick Arnold
Vanessa Atterbearly
Joanne C. Benson
Gavin Buckley

Andrea Chapdelaine
Mohammad Choudhury
Katarina Ennerfelt
R. Mike Gill
Robert L. Green
Larry Letow
Roya Mohadjer

Stephen K. Neal
Rodney Oddoyo
George W. Owings, III
Lourdes R. Padilla
Leslie R. Simmons
William E. Simons

GWDB STAFF

Mike DiGiacomo
Darla Henson

Kenneth Lemberg
Molly Mesnard

GUESTS

Chris Abell
Rachel Amstutz
Barry Boseman
Phillip Brown
Dr. Deann Collins
Susan Considine
Kevin Craft
Logan Dean
Bruce England

Laura Flamm
Ellen Flowers-Fields
Andrew Fulginiti
Jade Gingerich
Rishan Habte
David Harper
Rachel Hise
Portia Hurtt
Kenneth Jessup

Terri K.
Prasad Karunakaran
Barbara Kaufmann
Heather Lageman
Dylan McDonough
Meka McNeal
John Meagher
Steve Morrell
Dwayne Myers

Denise Nooe	Keisha Sitney	1-240-**62
Myra Norton	Jennifer Staiger	1-301-**05
John Papagni	Molly Tidwell	1-443-**07
Kristine Pearl	Casey Tiefenwerth	1-443-**88
Matthew Pyne	Fran Trout	1-443-**94
Erin Roth	Perketer Tucker	1-410-**80
James Rzepkowski	Jacqueline Turner	1-443-**82
Julie Sasscer-Burgos	Rosie Verratti	*Unknown Caller
Emma Shirey	Joana Winningham	

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting started officially at 3:30 PM, June 8, 2022, via Google Meets platform. Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Executive Director Michael DiGiacomo indicated that Chairman Louis Dubin would not be able to join today and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Chris Sachse, who provided welcome and opening remarks.

Vice Chair Chris Sachse indicated that the CAMI cybersecurity industry association and local boards were active in the past legislative session. In the Cybersecurity industry, he sees smaller organizations coming together to address labor shortages. That is hopefully relevant to other industries in Maryland. He also looks forward to the new members being added to the GWDB.

Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Tiffany Robinson articulated that innovation and creativity are hallmarks of the GWDB and of the Maryland Labor Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning. She is happy to talk with business owners. There are still many unfilled positions. The Maryland unemployment rate is 4.2%, getting closer to the pre-pandemic rate. Registered Apprenticeship programs are at an all-time high, and there is much activity with youth apprenticeships and announcing of the latest round of the Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) program. There is talk of a recession, and the Department of Labor is trying to be fully prepared. Maryland Labor serves as an extension of the GWDB, and Secretary Robinson wanted GWDB members to know that they should be comfortable reaching out to her and Labor Department staff.

Andrew Fulginiti, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for Maryland Labor, delivered a brief presentation on Legislative Updates from the recent legislative session. He referenced passed bills for entrepreneurship programs for those incarcerated and for enhancing the Health Care workforce. Mr. Fulginiti spoke about legislated updates in funding for apprenticeship (\$25 million) and efforts in public service apprenticeships for Public Safety, Health Care, and Transportation. He spoke at length about the new Family and Medical Leave Act (FAMLI). There would be funding and a new entity within the Maryland Department of Labor to administer the program. There are two studies conducted involving actuarial measurements and rates of contribution with regard to cost analysis and cost sharing.

GWDB member Lisa Rusyniak announced that a new adult high school, for those over age 21 who have not yet gotten their high school diploma, will be opened in Baltimore during second quarter of 2023. Her Goodwill organization has been awarded a grant to be the community connector for the West Baltimore area, particularly serving the Druid Hill neighborhood.

GWDB member Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis praised the legislature's full formula funding for community colleges statewide.

GWDB member Marco Avila spoke about Engineers Week in Baltimore, with 800 high school students participating. Maritime Day has been added to the program this year. Next year Cybersecurity Day will be added. Engineers Week has been around for 18 years.

GWDB member Marty Schwartz spoke about developments with Vehicles for Change. They are piloting virtual reality training modules with the Baltimore City Schools for automotive technician exploration, as well as with a correctional facility. Vehicles for Change is opening a new training facility in Salisbury in August 2022: the fourth facility for Vehicles for Change, after opening a facility in Hyattsville.

GWDB member Chuck Wetherington noted that the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) has developed and outreached experiential learning. They have a mobile vehicle, for middle and high school students, that they are taking across the country.

GWDB member Amie Long spoke about Cheney Enterprises' open house next week on 6/41/22, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, for its Class B CDL apprenticeship program. There are connections with Goodwill and with returning citizens. The second class will be more streamlined, from an eight week program to a six week program.

GWDB member Stacey Herman from Kennedy Krieger referenced the recent Project Search graduating class. There are 14 Project Search programs across the state, which form a collaborative. They provide all needed support for talent for employers.

GWDB member Ed Rothstein had an inaugural event for veterans in Carroll County. These were younger veterans, post-Vietnam, and there were between 2,000 and 3,000 people there. There is innovative programming out there for veterans, as well as a need for administration in nursing. Mr. Rothstein said that LeRoy Thomas, State Veterans Program Manager, is doing a great job.

Secretary Rona Kramer of the Department of Aging spoke about the Durable Medical Equipment Reuse program. This program can provide mobility not otherwise obtainable via walkers, motorized wheelchairs, etc., which can be applied to the world of work.

Mr. DiGiacomo asked if there were any more updates to share, and as none were presented, Vice Chair Sachse asked if the Board would entertain a motion to approve the March 9th GWDB meeting minutes. Lisa Rusyniak made a motion to approve, and Secretary James Fielder seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Mr. DiGiacomo had some additional announcements. He indicated that the GWDB would be managing a primary and secondary school bus driver wage study, looking at wages and benefits. Staff are in the process of putting out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to potential research vendors. Secretary James Fielder asked if the study would be a raw start, without prior base documentation say from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Mr. DiGiacomo replied that this would be a start in wage data collection.

Mr. DiGiacomo noted that the Maryland Modification to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan has been approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Education. He thanked all partners for their efforts toward this State Plan approval. Mr. DiGiacomo articulated that he and Secretary Robinson will be out and about in the coming weeks. For example, they will be participating in a program next week with Junior Achievement in Salisbury to understand businesses there. He also noted that the GWDB staff are seeking to have a GWDB social get together (informal setting) and tour with the Central Maryland Junior Achievement organization, likely late September or early October 2022.

PRESENTATIONS:

GWDB Director of Workforce Engagement Molly Mesnard presented an overview and details regarding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee. She gave a history of this huge education reform bill, including mention of the Kirwan Commission and the law's five pillars, particularly the third pillar, College and Career Readiness (CCR).

Mr. DiGiacomo indicated that Blueprint implementation will be locally driven. GWDB staff will help connect CTE directors in the counties with local workforce development board directors. MSDE will engage in conversations statewide. There is also a mandate to have local workforce boards connected to career counseling with middle school and high school students.

Ms. Mesnard indicated that there were plenty of subcommittees for the Blueprint and CTE to get involved with for GWDB members. Also, other GWDB members can provide input, even if they are not on committees.

GWDB members asked questions regarding Blueprint operations and implementation. GWDB member Carl Livesay asked how the trades are involved with outcomes. He noted that industry recognized credentials are not always applicable to every job. Mr. DiGiacomo noted that industry associations are expected to help the GWDB find out what employers are looking for, such as ABC, MCCEI, MEP, REMI, and CAMI. Mr. Livesay asked about adding training for military careers, as well as about how to address a workforce not able to read and write or speak English. Ms. Mesnard indicated that there are resources for English Language Learners. GWDB member Wanda Gispert asked if there were a platform to deliver jobs to students where they can apply. She noted that students need their own virtual space (not on LinkedIn or Indeed), that there is a disconnect between students and job opportunities, and that career counselors may not be equipped to handle this overall need. Secretary Fielder wondered whether the Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) could create a jobs link for students, that is, could be hyperlinked with regard to apprenticeships with employers. Mr. DiGiacomo indicated that this type of feedback could be taken up by the CTE Committee. Kristine Pearl, CTE Director in Frederick County, said that her organization was piloting use of a platform next year.

Vice Chair Sachse closed out the meeting by asking for a motion to adjourn. Motions were made to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Submitted by:

Kenneth Lemberg