

Western Maryland
Workforce Development Board
April 11, 2017 Meeting

The Western Maryland Workforce Development Board met at Rocky Gap Casino and Resort in Cumberland, Maryland.

Members

Kristi Durst
Rebecca Ruppert
Scott Hollingsworth
Charles Hunt
Julie Yoder
Shawn Barncord
Stu Czapski
Kim Durst
Elizabeth Morin
Alex Morris
Ed Crowe
Adele Connolly
Steve Weeks
Amanda McKenzie

Guests

Debora Gilbert
Gary Bockrath
Wilma Moore
Cynthia Trout
Paul Smith
Bill Walker
Melanie Chapman
Dawn Schoenenberger
Carol Mowbray Brooks
Jonathan Wynn
Helena Johnson
Secretary Kelly Schultz

Ex-Officio

Tom Rosser
Richard Paulman
Rosalind Martin
Theresa Shank
James Robertson

- Greetings and Introductions, Kristi Durst, President
President Kristi Durst called the meeting to order and introductions of board members, ex-officio members and guests were made.
- Approval of Minutes - Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 22, 2017 as distributed.
- President Durst introduced Kelly Schulz, Secretary of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation who gave a presentation on the Youth Apprenticeship Program pilot program being run in Washington

and Frederick counties. The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation has acquired a grant which will allow them to hire two navigators. One to be placed in each school system to assist with this program. The goal is to place up to sixty (60) students in each school district in apprenticeship programs. At this time, there are seven (7) businesses and two (2) students participating. Secretary Schulz informed the Board that Pre Apprenticeship programs are not only a top priority of hers but also of Governor Hogan. A press release will be forthcoming to all invite businesses to participate.

- Allegany County Updates

- Paul Smith announced the retirement of Dr. Richard Paulman and conveyed the Board's gratitude for his years of service. He then reiterated just how smoothly the system is operating in Allegany County due to the close proximity of the CORE partners.
- On March 22, 2017 the American Job Center held a Multi-Employer Job Fair hosting thirty one employers and 263 job seekers.
- On April 20, 2017 they will be hosting a Teen Career Event for students exiting high school in this year. At present there are 10 employers committed to participate.
- The 2017 summer program is in the beginning stages. This will not only include WIOA funded dollars but also grants from DORS, DSS, Maryland Youth Connection and Presley Ridge.
- The American Job Center in Cumberland received part of the One Baltimore grant to assist clients with legal aid issues.
- Paul closed by asking for any ideas as to how to engage our unemployed populations to either seek employment or training. With very little business and/or plant layoffs, the dislocated worker numbers are low and a large number of the unemployed are not seeking assistance.

- Garrett County Updates

- Jonathan Wynn opened by thanking the Garrett County Board representatives for their years of service.
- Garrett County continues to work with Patterson Boat, The WISP and Broadford State Park as employers for WMC's Work Experience youth. The Garrett office is also working with Workforce West Virginia to assist both participants and employers in overcoming barriers caused by the rural geography of the county and close proximity to the neighboring state.
- Scott Hollingsworth of Appalachian Crossroads has partnered with Maryland Business Works to retrain several employees.

- A job fair is scheduled for April 22, 2017. To date, forty (40) employers have registered.
- The Garrett staff is preparing for the 2017 summer program. Like Allegany county, this will not only include WIOA funded dollars but also grants from DORS and DSS.
- Washington County Updates
 - Deb Gilbert conveyed thanks to the members of all counties who have served on the board. Deb also thanked all of the CORE partners in working as a group and coming together on the local and regional plan which will be re-submitted to the State next week.
 - As in Allegany County, Deb also put out a request for any suggestions as to how to engage the population in the area to reach out to us for training and or job placement assistance. Seventy-five percent of the youth populations to be served are out of school youth and we need to find a way to connect with this population.
 - The Maryland Highway Capital Transit Construction was the next topic discussed by Deb. She informed the Board that the State has contacted her and would like Western Maryland Consortium to apply for this grant. This request was made because of the local Day Program in Washington County and also because of the proximity of the prisons in both Washington and Allegany County. The Consortium would partner with HCC on this program
- Gary Bockrath gave a presentation of the new role of the Workforce Development Board under WIOA regulations. Topics covered in this presentation also included the mission and vision of the Board.

The next meeting of the Workforce Development Board is to be determined once all new members are selected.

There being no further business to come before the Workforce Development Board, the meeting adjourned.