

**Western Maryland Consortium
Workforce Development Board
03-09-2022 - Meeting**

Members

Amos McCoy
Kim Durst
Charles Hunt
Sharon Plump
Jennifer Hickey
Ken ward
Parika Anderson
Ed Crowe
Jessica Miller
Mike Genvro
Dawn Schoenenberger
Sharon Shaffer

Guests

Linda Spence
James Marchinke
Brian Grim
Angella Moon
Michael R. DiGiacomo
Molly Mesnard
Mary Pat Voorreyer

Amos McCoy chaired the virtual meeting and had all present introduce themselves. He next proceeds to the agenda: Minutes were approved on a motion by Dawn Schoenenberger and seconded by Kim Durst.

Deb Gilbert stated that Allegany and Garrett Counties were in their new offices.

Alleghany County Office
152 Baltimore Street, Suite 100
Cumberland Maryland 21502

Garrett County Office
23789 Garrett County, Suite 5
McHenry, MD 21541

Alleghany's office is the same building as the American Job Center and DORS. Candance Snaveley took Paul Smith's position as supervisor. Garrett is now located closer to the college and is a midpoint for participants.

WMC Audit for the year ended June 30, 2021, was completed and qualified as a low-risk auditee.

WMC PY 2021 QTR2 Exceeded all performance measures (13) and failed one performance measure on the youth credential rate. Due to COVID-19, many youths dropped out of the GED classes or the training classes and never returned. Forty-two youth left the program, with only seventeen receiving a credential. WMC served 402 participants from 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021.

Discussion on Unemployment rates was compared from December 20 and December 21, in all three counties, increased 60% or higher than December of 2020.

Concerns were raised about not having enough skilled labor or not enough people to skill them. Construction Industry has around six thousand open positions. The Tri-State area has multiple warehouses already in operation or building in Washington County and the Tri-State area. An influx of people quitting without notice and going to higher-paying or better hours of employment.

Deb Gilbert presented recommendations on Supportive Services, Training Dollars, and Incentives to youth. After discussions on the recommendations, the following changes were made:

Supportive Services

Gas/Mileage – \$150.00 per week (per 50 cents per mile) \$150.00 per week Child Care
\$100.00 Clothing for work/interviews/Training \$ 200.00 for Safety, tools equipment
\$2,500 is the limit on Supportive Services

Training Dollars

\$ 6,000 per person with \$2,500 Supportive Services

- Out of Area Training
- Industry Partnership
- Contract Training
- Cohort Training
- On-The-Job Training (based on training time)

Incentives To Youth

- Completion of one GED test \$50.00 (4 subjects)
- Completion of all GED tests and receiving a Diploma of \$150.00
- Completion of the Pre and Post TABE test \$50.00
- Perfect Attendance (GED) – \$50.00 (if scheduled 10 hours or more in-house for a month)

Needs Related Payments

\$150.00 per week - to provide financial assistance to participants to enable them to participate in training when they are no longer receiving unemployment benefits.

Amos McCoy made a motion to approve all and was seconded by Ken Ward.

Deb Gilbert updated the board on the FY22 Grant Overview

FY22 Funding – \$6,353,667.18 - Spent 2,508,001.08 – Available 3, 845,666.10

Maryland Relief and NDWG-(Covid-19) is 100% spent

Review of the Memorandum of Understanding Between WMC and MD Department of Labor - Performance and reporting: American Rescue Plan of 2021 Grant and Maryland House Bill 588

A discussion was on the Hispanic growth in Washington County. The Adult Education and Literacy program offers diversity training offered to the workforce. Translator Apps on the Web. Nitza Rivera, Spanish 4 all – contact by text @ 301-615-3025 and Sila Alegret-Bartell - International Corporation Training and Marketing – (ICTM) 240-420-0803

American Rescue Plan Act Workforce Development Program Policies, definitions, and Procedures are being developed by the National Association Workforce Boards (NAWB)

Save the Date! For 2022 Raising the Bar Conference at the LIVE! Hotel September 12 -14th, 2022.

Motion to adjourn made by Kim Durst and Mike Genvro