

Western Maryland  
Workforce Development Board  
June 11, 2019 Meeting

The Western Maryland Workforce Development Board meeting was held at the American Job Center in Cumberland, Maryland.

Members

Amos McCoy  
Theresa Shank  
Charles Hunt  
Sharon Plump  
Shaun Barncord  
Charles Hunt  
Kim Connaughton

Guest

Ken Lemberg  
Sheila Bouloubassis  
Melissa Hose

WMC Staff

Debora Gilbert  
Wilma Moore  
Paul Smith  
Mary Keller

- **Greetings and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Amos McCoy. As there were no new members present, introductions were inessential.
- **Approval of March 20, 2019 Minutes** – Motion to approve Charles Hunt and seconded by Shawn Barncord.

**Benchmarks Presentation** – Ken Lemberg, from the Governors Workforce Development Board, presented the Benchmarks of Success. *Benchmarks of Success* is a leadership tool that reflects a shared vision of excellence among the State’s workforce system partners – **five strategic goals** are organized around an overall vision to increase the earning capacity of Marylanders...

- By maximizing access to employment,
  - By maximizing access to and use of skills and credentialing
  - By maximizing access to and use of life management skills,
  - By eliminating barriers to employment through the use of supportive services, and
  - By strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the workforce system.
- **Trade Act Presentation** – Sheila Bouloubassis from Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations (DLLR), presented a PowerPoint on the Trade Act. Verso in Westernport applied for Trade, 696 people lost employment do to closure of the plant.

THE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA) PROGRAM TAA is a federal entitlement program established under the Trade Act of 1974, amended by the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009. The TAA Program provides aid to

workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports or production transfers abroad. The federal TAA program includes job training and benefits. To receive TAA benefits, you must have lost a job covered by a trade certification issued by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). If you think you qualify and are interested, our American Job Centers' office staff can discuss the following benefits with you:

- Job Search Assistance—improves job-hunting skills.
  - Job Search Allowance—pays travel expenses for job interviews outside your Local Area.
  - Relocation Allowance—pays most of the moving expenses for you and your family if you get a job outside your Local Area.
  - Training (Vocational and Remedial)—pays for training for a new occupation.
  - Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)—pays you benefits while you are in approved full-time training.
  - Alternative/Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA/RTAA)—supplements your wages if you are at least age 50 and return to work earning less in wages in your new job than you did in your previous job.
- **WIOA Funding/Grants** – The Board presented the Board with the WIOA funding Comparisons on the grants for 2020. Western Maryland Consortium received \$400,181 more in funding for 2020 compared to 2019. Along with Title I Grants (WIOA) The Consortium also received 1,109,308 in other discretionary grants and core partners.
  - **State Performance** – Western Maryland Consortium exceeded 13 out of 14 standards/measures, and one measure was Meeting 90% of the standard/measurement. Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state out of 12.
  - **Unemployment Statistics by County** – April 2019  
Allegany - 4.6  
Garrett – 4.  
Washington 3.6 With Hagerstown alone 4.6
  - **One Stop Operator RFP** - Proposal was released and deadline to submit is 6/21/2019. It was decided to form a Adhoc Committee to review the proposals. The committee will consist of one officer 1 consortium employee, 1 business and one core partner. The following has volunteered  
Shawn Barncord - Business  
Amos – Board Chair  
Wilma – Consortium  
Sharon – Core partner  
They will meet and review proposal(s) and score.

## County Updates

Paul Smith updated the Board with the latest about VERSO, WARN notice was received on 4/30/2019. Partners came together and held a Job Fair on 06/18/2019 Second Job Fair scheduled on 06//2019 Due to the plant closure 388 people will be unemployed, not including

any vendors that may be effective. Three hundred and seventy (370) from Maryland, Three Hundred and ten 310 from West Virginia, seven (7) from PA and one (1) from VA.

### **Rapid Response Attendees**

504

### **Job Fair Attendees - Total = 935**

- 685 jobseekers
- 145 employer representatives
  
- 66 partner agency representatives
- 39 investment services representatives

In addition to the above data, we had numerous administration from the State of Maryland and State of West Virginia to include all levels of local, regional, and state representation as well as volunteers from the Bruce Outreach Center and a multitude of community organizations that provided additional refreshments, food pantry items, resource materials and support throughout the event.

It is not possible to recognize every individual and entity that contributed, but this was truly a team effort and I am grateful to be part of such an outstanding community and appreciate all the partnerships that made this happen!

- Western Maryland Workforce Development Board – The chairman of the board asked the question “What if it was supposed to be great/better”.

### **Call to Action (Board Members)**

By-laws- read and keep as reference: Key pieces missing.

Executive Committee - Chair, Vice Chair, County Business Led, Core Partners  
Monthly meeting, can bring voted materials to full board (save time on changes)

Standing Committee on Youth – not have to be voting board member except for  
Chairman (Ex - BD of ED) Chairman will help start up this committee

Information/Technology/Marketing Committee Messages and benefits to deliver.

Adhoc committee (s) – One started for the One Stop Operator

Must have strategy, must move forward.

Website - Language not clear - Information has to be useful

What is responsibility of being a Board Member. – Exercise of reasonable care never use information in meeting to use as personal gain, betterment of region (not just local business). Board needs to keep public trust find mission of WMC and the Board.

Goal – Everyone take something home with them from every meeting

Strategic Planning -

- Consultant

- Community Group to set needs

- Put it all together

- Need funding for this (GWDB)

- Elevator Speech

- On boarding Process - time and travel

- Possible Zoom Video

Next Scheduled Meeting September 25, 2019