

Western Maryland Workforce Alliance

Workforce Development Board

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

10 a.m.

Conference Call

Agenda

In attendance: Amos McCoy, Chairman and CVABC, Deb Gilbert, WMC, Charles Hunt, Md. Labor, Sharon Plump, DORS, Shawn Barncord, ACT Personnel Services, Sandi Glessner, Manpower, Paul Smith, Allegany WMC, Ed Crowe, AJC, Julie Yoder, Garrett College, Kaitlyn Glotfelty, Garrett College, Kevin Ward, Garrett Container, Lynda Strait, Tele-Plus, Mary Keller, WMC Garrett, Emily Bauer, DSS Garrett, Kim Durst, Garrett Economic Development, Duane Yoder, Garrett Community Action Committee, Ken Lemberg, Governor's Workforce Development Board, Brian Grime, Md Labor, Parika Andersson, Comfort Inn, Jennifer Hickey, Kim Connaughton, MD Legal Service, Theresa Shank, HCC, One Stop Operator, Pat?

1. Welcome and Introductions- Amos

- Amos attended the Board meeting virtually from Texas where he is participating in the Skills USA conference. Of note, Todd Swan the Carpentry instructor Franklin County Career and Technical Center won the instructor of the year award.
- After introduction of attendees, Deb Gilbert welcomed new board member Lynda Strait from Tele Plus. Deb also announced that Sandi Glessner was retiring from the Board after 5 years of participation and thanked her for her service.

2. Minutes were approved on motion by Kaitlyn Glotfelty and seconded by Kim Durst

3. One Stop Operational Update

- Theresa Shank shared a report from the One Stop Operator including updates on social media posts, committee meetings and upcoming activities. Amos asked Deb to clarify the decision on maintaining the current Workforce Alliance Website. Deb stated that the One Stop Operator would NOT maintain this website but would continue to keep the URL for future use- perhaps to post Board information

4. New and Current Funding

- New Funding Source- the Western Maryland Consortium has received \$455,000 in Governor's Relief fund. The time period for spending down these funds is July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022. The funding will provide for assistance for training not is not approved by WIOA' s Eligible Training Provider List and individuals may not be required to have the same barriers to employment as WIOA requires. This funding could be used to fund more youth programming including year-round instead of just summer jobs program. Funding can also be used for staffing, capital improvements, Board retreat/orientation and other projects. Once Deb has the guidelines she will work with partners to develop a plan and present this to the Board for approval.
- Additional Funds Added to Current Funding Options= WMC has also received an additional \$125,000 from the Opioid fund. Deb explained this fund has been difficult to spend down during the pandemic.

- Amos suggested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss how to use these funds to assist individual get jobs. This committee will include WMC, Adult Basic Ed, DORS. If other partners want to join, please contact the One Stop Operator who will schedule a meeting later this month.
- a. New Relationships to Assist with Opioid Funding
 - i. WMC is working with several recovery centers including Brooke's House and Awakenings in Washington County and Paul Smith has joined Healing Allegany County. This group consisting of law enforcement, addiction counselors and workforce development professionals are working together to provide assistance and referrals to those in recovery.

5. Local Plan, RSA, MOU

- Amos has attended the partners meetings where the details of the Local Plan, MOU and RSA are being discussed and is very impressed with the involvement and hard work of the group.
- Deb stated that the Local Plan is completed and she will be posting it to the shared Google Drive for review by the Board next week.
- Work continues on the RSA. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15 and Md. Dept of Labor, Erin Roth will provide information to the partners on the state requirements of the agreement
- The Local Plan is due to the state for first review on April 1. Deb will ask the Executive Committee to approve the draft so she can submit it. The Executive Committee will present the plan at the next board meeting for full approval.
- The MOU and RSA are due on April 30. Executive Committee will also approve the MOU and RSA and present to the Board at the next meeting
- The above approvals by the Executive Committee were put to a vote as Charles moved to approve, seconded by Parika.

6. Final discussion including information from the Colleges about scholarship programs funded by the Governor's Relief fund, and the status of returning to in person workplaces

- a. WMC is operating in a County building and is following the re-opening guidelines. Currently meeting clients by appointment only.
- b. American Job Center- operating under State guidelines, still working remotely and providing virtual seminars
- c. DORS is still remote but will provide Pre-ETs services starting on April 5 and will participate in the summer youth jobs program

Amos closed the meeting with information he heard at his conference recently. The definition of a hero is a ordinary person who does something extraordinary. However, the seminar speaker suggested that a hero is an extraordinary person who refuses to be ordinary. He requested that we all be extraordinary and make an impact for our clients.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56am