

**Western Maryland Consortium
Workforce Development Board
June 9, 2021 - Meeting**

Members

Amos McCoy
Emily Bauer
Tom Hendrickson
Kim Durst
Charles Hunt
Sharon Plump
Jennifer Hickey
Ken ward
Parika Anderson
Duane Yoder
Ed Crowe
Julie Yoder
Wendolyn McKenzie
Kaitlyn Glotfelty

Guests

Mary Pat Vorreyer
Paul Smith
Mary Keller
Theresa Shank
James Marchinke
Kim Connaughton
Ken Lemberg
Wilma Moore
Angella Moon
Lori Kendall
James Grossman

Amos McCoy chaired the meeting and had all present introduce themselves for the benefit of the guests. He next proceeds to the agenda: Minutes were approved on a motion by Kaitlyn Glotfelty and seconded by Ken Ward.

One-Stop Operator updated current social media with job seekers and employers' interest in information shared. Recent work with MD Labor advertising upcoming seminars and providing employer information marketing.

Discussion surrounding the utilization of hashtags occurred to share more information across multiple organizations. Possibility to increase reach for potential clients and organizations.

A Referral Committee update was provided. One-Stop -Operator stated that Melanie has been instrumental in coordinating efforts to have a referral program up and running with UMPC. Reference was made on upcoming training sessions that are being made available to understand Aunt Bertha better for use with clients.

New funding sources were touched on. Amos stated that upcoming funding would not have to meet WIOA funding guidelines and a meeting with the state later this week to determine how funding can be utilized, starting July 1. This funding will be used over 2 years. There was a discussion of how funding could potentially assist individuals that may be underemployed. Questions of potential funding are coupled with additional funding, 455K incremental funding for Western Maryland.

Local Plan, RSA, MOU was touched on; a possible emergency meeting was stated to ratify the plan once the plan is returned from the state. An extension was granted at this point for final submission.

Board commitment was sent out, and discussion occurred surrounding current committees. Amos reviewed the handout from Director and provided a brief overview of the level of work that can be expected. Further discussion of fiscal disbursement and the process that occurs when

provided grant funds.

It was requested that an explanation of funding streams for each committee occur during the next board meeting. Funding streams to be included in the pre-reads.

One-Stop Operator RFP is to be released with modifications to expectations for the position. If no one replies to the RFP, we can operate minimally, or Western Maryland Consortium can operate in the interim to maintain operation.

Maryland Dept. of Labor in Cumberland is under IT revamp. Statewide the remote working mandate has been removed, and agencies are slowly moving back to pre-COVID operation, opening to the public. Washington County will open to the public on July 6, and Cumberland is on hold due to IT revamping.

Maryland Dept. of Labor is looking to provide Reese and Roe training to participants. Charles provided an overview of both programs for attendee understanding.

On July 3, the activities requirement returns to mandating individuals to perform three activities to receive unemployment compensation: one job search, interaction through a seminar, and/or personal interaction. Activities must be captured electronically, and staff may become more essential to assist with technology-challenged individuals; however, individuals will not get paid for the week if the information is not received electronically. Expectations are that staff will be inducted with helping through the changes.

Questions by attendees surrounding unemployment recipient requirements. Comments questioned the validity of applications as employers are contacting applicants; however, applicants are not replying.

Angella Moon will follow Amos and Lori to distribute information for a reverse search for employers to seek out job searchers. Business Services with the Maryland Dept. of Labor has increased knowledge for upcoming events/seminars and virtual recruitment. Fliers will be supplied to the Partners.

Rocky Gap is hiring, and a discussion of existing advertising opportunities to assist their efforts was reviewed. The One-Stop Operator helped through Facebook, and the Maryland Dept. of Labor provided the opportunity to develop a profile to connect with job seekers.

Discussion of how employers need to adjust interviewing techniques and hiring processes.

Motion to adjourn made by Charles Hunt and Tom Hendrickson