

Western Maryland  
Local Workforce Development Board Meeting  
September 22, 2021

Members:

Amos McCoy	Tom Hendrixon	Kim Durst	Jennifer Hickey
Ken Ward	Parika Anderson	Ed Crowe	Dawn Schoenenberger
Juli McCoy			

Guests

Kim Connaughton      Corrine Fike

**Greetings and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Board Chari Amos McCoy. Introductions were completed.

**Approval of June 9, 2021** - The minutes were reviewed and motion to approve by Kim Durst and seconded by Ken Ward.

**Recertification for the W.M. Local Workforce Board** – The Governors Workforce Development Board certifies the local workforce development boards every two years. The GWDB has extended the current Board until July 15, 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and gradual reopening o the American Job Centers (AJC's)

**Outreach to Western Maryland Governor's Workforce Development Board** - - Deb Gilbert received an email from the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) of the two board members who are connected to Western Maryland, Gary Bockrath and James Sears, to schedule an introductory meeting and discuss the business needs. A meeting with the Board Members or a retreat was discussed.

**Washington County Public School Proposal** – The proposal supports the WCPS's dropout prevention efforts by providing additional support for WIOA eligible students to complete high school successfully. Total cost \$22,094 for 35 to 40 participants . The cost per participant is \$631.26 – A motion to approve was made by Tom Hendrixon and second by Kim Durst.

**Summer Work Experience** - Deb Gilbert spoke about the work experience and Job Readiness Workshops for the youth ages 14 – 24 for a 6 to 8-week work experience. The youth could work up to 35 hours a week at \$11.75 per hour, and if they completed the three-day workshop on Job Readiness, they received a \$200 stipend. Two hundred forty-six (246) youth participated. Allegany County served 86 youth, Garrett County served 37 youth, and Washington County served 123 youth. Funding for the program was provided by the following: Dept. of Social Services (DSS), Dept of Vocational Rehab (DORS), WIOA, MD youth Connection, MD Relief Fund (ARPA), and the Local Management Board and partnered with Adult Education in Allegany County and Garrett County on the Job Readiness Workshops and Washington County with Continuing Education in Washington County.

**Western Maryland Workforce Development Board Funding Streams** - Information on all the Funding streams and a brief description was sent as a pre-read that was asked for at the previous Board meeting. A Virtual meeting by the ETA staff was held on the Readiness and Technical Assistance for COVID-19

Recovery and Reemployment. ETA's goal was to help local areas serve many job seekers who need help finding a job and employers who need help finding the skilled workers they need.

**MD Relief (ARPA) Funds** – Discussion on the Re-Employment Grants is designed to prepare and connect laid-off Western Maryland residents to employment opportunities while simultaneously helping businesses to either reopen or rehire employees. A motion to approve the Re-employment grant was made by Kim Durst and seconded by Tom Hendrixon

Funding is also be used for the Apprentischiip programs in all three counties. Working with the businesses paying up to 75% of hourly wages while working.

We are partnering with Health field occupations on paid internships for training.

A request for proposals on policy and Compliance Contractor for American Rescue Plan ACT Funding (ARPA) was released on 8/27/2021 and due date 9/27/2021 on behalf of eight Workforce Areas. The purpose is to contract a qualified subject matter expert in workforce development policy and compliance to create American Rescue Plan Act policies, definitions, and procedures.

**U.I. Data Sharing Agreements** – All 13 Directors in Maryland are working with The Maryland Department of Labor to work together on outreach to the unemployed.

**Job Fairs & Outreach** – Partnered with the MDDOL on three Virtual Hiring Events, one in each county, and partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and Washington County Library on a job fair along with HCC and two more job fairs at the Valley Mall.

Outreach at On Track, Day reporting Center, Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Business this quarter.

MOU/RSA/Local Plan – MOU/RSA is complete; just waiting for one signature. Local Plan is at the State and waiting for corrections and suggestions.

One-Stop-Operator – Sent one RFP with no replies, writing another RFP to send out.