



Carroll County Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Exploration Commons, 9:15am

Attendees: Zach Tomlin, Haresh Raithatha, Chris Abell, Suzy Dyer Gear, Bill Eckles, Brandon Schweitzer, Julie Givens, Mike McHale, Matti Franzén, Scott Yard, Matt LeFaivre, Karen Bernard, Anita Hammond, Denise Beaver, Rich Westcott, Sharon Plump, Corey Hardinger, Jessica Meerdter, Bryan Zuber, Richard Westcott, Margaret Welliver, Heather Powell, Stan Whiteman, Tammy Haines, and Shelby O'Leary.

Mr. Tomlin started the meeting at 9:31am. There was a quorum present.

1. Action Items

- a. Minutes- Mr. Abell motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Beaver seconded. The vote was unanimous, the minutes from the March 15, 2023, meeting were approved. Absent board members voted electronically.
- b. Board Member Term Extension- Mr. McHale motioned to approve the board term extension for Matt LeFaivre and Brady Chapman. Mr. Franzén seconded. The vote was unanimous, the motion to extend Mr. LeFaivre's and Mr. Chapman's terms was approved.
- c. Nominating Committee- The nominating committee presented the following slate: Haresh Raithatha as the new President of the Board and Chris Abell as the new Vice President. Mr. Tomlin moved to approve the proposed slate of officers. Ms. Plump seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. The new slate of officers will take effect July 1, 2023.
- d. WIOA Funding- Ms. Powell presented the Board with new WIOA federal funding. The funding is for adults, dislocated workers, and youth ages 16-24. The total 975,166.00 has been awarded for the year. Mr. Abell approved the motion to accept the funding. Ms. Givens seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

2. New Business-

- a. One Stop Operator Report- Mr. McCree shared the success of pop-up community events in the south-central PA region with regards that these events can be successful with educating the community. He posed the question for the board to consider "how do we offer rapid re-employ/re-skill for both job seekers and businesses?" He also shared the labor force participation rate for Carroll County

is at 66% currently, which is significantly higher than the national average. However, the rate in 2018 was 72%, a drop off of 6%- meaning 3500 workers are missing from the workforce. How do we reengage and reemploy these missing workers? He also highlighted the growth in construction jobs in Carroll County. The nature of construction jobs is conducive to AR/VR programs. He suggested that using VR/AR software would be a great way to engage youth and help with career development and promote these fast-growing construction jobs. The next all-staff partner training is on Tuesday, June 6th on trauma-informed care at Carroll Community College at 9am.

- b. Legislation Updates- Mr. Tomlin shared that the minimum wage will be increased to \$15/hour on January ,1 2024. This could present a challenge for both CCWD and businesses.
- c. Annual Convening- The annual convening will be on September 27th of the board, partners, employers, community agencies, etc. The topic will be building a comprehensive workforce system for the county. More details will be sent out to the board via email.

3. Customer Success Story: Richard Westcott

Ms. Powell interviewed Richard Westcott. He is currently a CDL driver. Ms. Powell and Mr. Whiteman were presenting at an event about occupational training. Richard Westcott was in the audience that day and came into the American Job Center to get help. He came from a banking job originally and was unhappy in that career. At first, he was hesitant, because he did not feel that he needed help. He realized that CCWD could help with a career change no matter what your circumstances were. He shared his personal experience with going through the program and how he's been successful with his new job.

4. CCWD Updates-

- a. Local Plan- Ms. Powell shared that the updates to the local plan are being finalized and will be posted online for public comment for 15 days and after that will be sent to MD Department of Labor for adoption. Next year, the local plan will have to be updated again.
- b. Blueprint- Mr. Eckles shared with the Board that the MOU is finalized and is in review with attorneys for final review and approval. The plan will begin in September 2023, so CCPS and CCWD will be hiring a total of 12 new positions, between the two organizations, to help with the workload. These new staff will be helping students learn about career development through curriculum and

software like Pathful Explore (previously known as Virtual Job Shadow). Carroll Community College will help with career development through dual enrollment classes, summer camp, career days, etc. The MOU will be shared with the Board once it is finalized. CCPS positions are being posted within the week and CCWD positions will follow shortly. Mr. Eckles also shared that according to the law of the Maryland Blueprint, the CCWD Board is required to work and support CCPS, CCWD, and Carroll Community College. For this first year, the career exploration curriculum will be for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. But the following year, the 7th and 8th graders will be taught more in depth and focused career development while the new 6th graders will be start with the original curriculum. And in the 3rd year, the 8th graders will be in the final piece of the program. The high school career coordinators will continue with the program and follow through implementing the career development with students through dual enrollment, apprenticeships, internships, etc. The Board discussed the difference between internships, apprenticeships, and youth apprenticeships.

- c. *Standing Youth & Young Adult Committee*- The first youth and young adult committee meeting was on Wednesday, April 19th and was a very successful inaugural meeting. The committee presented an overview of the department, roles and responsibilities, and partnerships. A topic of discussion was to create a mentorship program in Carroll County. The next youth committee meeting will be on Wednesday July 19th virtually at 2pm.
- d. *Outreach Events*- Mr. Whiteman shared updates with CCWD outreach events. One of the goals with outreach is to reach communities outside of Westminster. The AJC pop-up events are held at the libraries in Taneytown, North Carroll, and Eldersburg with the future events planned at Mount Airy. CCWD hosted a Chamber of Commerce After Hours event at the American Job Center on April 27th. CCWD also was represented at the Veterans Celebration event on May 7th. These events are help spread the message out to the communities about how the AJC can help them, whether they are an unemployed job seeker or want to talk about a career change. Mr. Whiteman thanked the partners for attending and supporting the community events.

5. **Member Updates**- There were no member updates.

Mr. Franzén moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:22am. Mr. Raithatha seconded. Approval was unanimous.