

## Carroll County Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Exploration Commons, 9:30am

Attendees: Zach Tomlin, Chris Abell, Suzy Dyer Gear, Bill Eckles, Brandon Schweitzer, Julie Givens, Mike McHale, Matti Franzén, Scott Yard, Karen Bernard, Anita Hammond, Denise Beaver, Sharon Plump, Corey Hardinger, Jessica Meerdter, Bryan Zuber, Margaret Welliver, Susan Torpey, Alyce Verville, Aleah Williamson, Heather Powell, Stan Whiteman, Tammy Haines, Eileen Vozzella, Darian Rahnis, Ashley Farver, Alaina Blake, and Shelby O'Leary.

Mr. Tomlin started the meeting at 9:34am. There was a quorum present.

### 1. Action Items

- Minutes- Mr. Abell motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Yard seconded. The vote was unanimous, the minutes from the May 17, 2023, meeting were approved.
- Nominating Committee- Haresh Raithatha has taken another position with an employer outside of Carroll County, which means he can no longer serve on the Board or hold the position of Chair. The nominating committee (Denise Beaver and Scott Yard) met to elect a new Chair. He presented to the board Zach Tomlin as the candidate for Chair. Mr. Yard also accepted nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations, Ms. Dyer-Gear motioned to approve the candidate as presented. Mr. Schweitzer seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. Mr. Tomlin is the Chair of the CCWD Board, effective immediately.

### 2. New Business-

- Annual Convening- Ms. Powell shared with the board that the annual convening will be on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm in Room K100 at Carroll Community College. She asked for volunteers to help with planning the event. Mr. Tomlin, Mr. Eckles, Mr. Zuber, and Mr. Abell volunteered.

### 3. 2023 Summer Youth Program-

Ms. Vozzella shared highlights from the 2023 summer youth program. There were 16 participants and 9 in the DORS cohort. The self-reported barriers were disability, low literacy, low income, and ex-offender. Some of the job titles that the youth held were content writer, clerical support, café worker, store associate, administrative aid, junior camp counselor, graphic designer, and technology aid. The employers that hosted the participants were Sober Truth, It's All Good, HSP, Carroll

County Health Department, Habitat for Humanity, MAGIC, Brian Safe Haven, Carroll Technology & Innovation Council, Exploration Commons, and the Y of Carroll County. One of the participants, Juliana, recorded a video sharing her experience in the Summer Youth Program. Mr. Abell shared his experience as being a host employer for one of the participants, Alaina Blake. He introduced Alaina and she spoke to her experience as well.

#### 4. CCWD Updates-

- MD Department of Labor- Ms. Powell shared that Governor Moore has appointed Portia Wu as Secretary and Jason Perkins-Cohen as Deputy Secretary. The Governor's Workforce Board has appointed Rachel Parker, formerly on the National Workforce Board, as President. Locally, a new veteran's service representative has been hired, Alex Brown. He is a DVOP (Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist) and a LVR (Veterans employment representative), he is able to work with disabled veterans and businesses.
- Blueprint- Ashley Farver was hired as Career Navigator and CCWD is in the process of hiring the other 2 positions. CCPS has hired 8 career coaches to fill positions in each of the middle schools. Pathful software will be used for career exploration and teachers can use supportive material to bring businesses into the classroom, especially local businesses.
- Economic Development Week- Ms. Beaver reported that there will be a proclamation on October 12<sup>th</sup> with Carroll County Commissioners for Economic Development Week (October 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>). Also, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, the fall MEDA conference will be at Antrim 1844 in Taneytown from 8am-2pm with the theme of "Innovations in Manufacturing". To attend the conference, register here: <https://www.medamd.com/event/2023-meda-fall-conference/>
- National Apprenticeship Week- Ms. Powell informed the board that CCWD is planning activities for this week. If any members have ideas or already scheduled events, please contact Ms. Powell.
- Maryland Department of Service & Civic Innovation- Ms. Powell shared information about the Maryland Department of Service & Civic Innovation. The Service Year Option is for young adults ages 18,19,20, or 21. It is an opportunity for those who recently completed high school, received their high school completion certificate, or earned their GED in Maryland. Members will serve across the state in organizations that will provide job training, mentorship, and other resources to be successful all while earning \$15 an hour plus focused professional development time each week. Businesses can apply to be a host agency. Visit <https://dsci.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

- *Standing Youth & Young Adult Committee*- Ms. Vozzella updated the Board on the progress of the youth and young adult standing committee. The committee identified some focus areas and challenges that the youth program faces in the coming year: (1) Define and develop a mentoring program for the youth and young adults (2) identifying talent pipeline of high school graduates going directly into workforce upon graduation, (3) Braiding WIOA youth services with Blueprint program. (4) Researching additional funding opportunities to expand the youth and young adult program. She also encouraged the board to complete the survey for the youth committee. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am at Carroll County Workforce Development.**
- *Raising the Bar Conference*- The Maryland Workforce Association is made up of the 13 workforce areas in Maryland and hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual workforce conference on September 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. This was a year of firsts, with unprecedented attendance of over 1,000 attendees and highlighting the conference, Governor Moore spoke about his vision for One Maryland, recognizing that workforce is the backbone of the economy. To watch his speech at the conference, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nblao9uxfiU>

#### 5. **Member Updates-**

- Mr. Yard has a financial education course at HSP for customers who may need to help with new learned behaviors.
- Ms. Plump shared that October is National Disability Employment Awareness month and DORS is having educational webinars spotlighting a different employer each week. See flyer sent out in the follow up email. She also shared that the deaf and hard of hearing unit is up and running, they have hired a new supervisor and staff specialist. DORS is also working with DOL UI unit to provide disability awareness training for their staff. Ms. Plump also mentioned that she would like to see disability inclusivity included in the Annual convening. Finally, she shared that DORS has been awarded the Disability innovation fund grant and 2 districts in her region are included in this grant. They are starting with Allegany County and are able to work with youth starting at age 10.
- Ms. Bernard shared that the Maryland Department of Social Services is holding an Open House event on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm at 1232 Tech Court, Westminster. This event is designed to help the community learn more about the local DSS, meet staff and board members, connect with county providers, and learn how to get involved. The flyer was sent out in the follow up email.

Mr. Tomlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35am and Ms. Plump seconded. Approval was unanimous.