



## **Carroll County Workforce Development Youth and Young Adult Standing Committee**

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Virtual Meeting on Teams, 2:00 pm

Attendees: Chris Abell, Bryan Zuber, Leslie Chesley, Sheila Herbst, Kelley McDonough, Justin Bard, Chris Miller, Sterling Kelly, Bill Eckles, Corey Hardinger, Stan Whiteman, Tammy Haines, Eileen Vozzella, Darian Rahnis, Keith Claiborne, and Shelby O'Leary.

Ms. Vozzella started the meeting at 2:03pm.

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Ms. Vozzella began committee member introductions by introducing the new youth program specialist, Darian Rahnis. Ms. Vozzella also shared a local newspaper article featuring the summer youth employment program with the committee. This year, the demand far exceeded the budget for the program. The program consists of work experience and enrichment activities that help with soft skills and career development.
2. **Blueprint Implementation Update-** Mr. Eckles explained the Maryland Blueprint plan is the law that was signed from the Kerwin Commission last year. There are 5 pillars to the plan: 1) early childhood education, 2) high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, 3) career and college readiness, 4) resources to ensure success for students with barriers, and 5) governance and accountability. The focus for Carroll County Workforce Development (CCWD), Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS), Carroll Community College (CCC), and the CCWD Board is pillar 3: career and college readiness. The MOU between CCWD, CCPS, and CCC has been finalized and is in effect starting July 1, 2023. The standard for Blueprint is to make sure 45% of Carroll County students, which is about 900 students, gain an industry-recognized credential. Carroll Community College's part is offering dual enrollment for free for high school students, summer career camps, and career development courses.
3. **Program Year (PY) 2023 Preview-** Ms. Haines shared that between PY20 and PY21, there was a decrease in funding, but from PY22 to PY23, there was an increase in funding. She said that workforce training is expected to maintain current level of funding. However, paid work experiences (PWEX) have increased from the prior year in number of participants and total dollars. So, PY23 will see fewer participants, shorter length (from 6 months to 3 months), and fewer weekly hours. She also stated that CCWD uses American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to braid funding for the youth

program, but those funds are starting to run out as the ARPA grant gets closer to its sunset date. Ms. Vozzella reviewed some challenges that the youth and young adult program faces and opportunities to face them that were discussed in the previous meeting. She also shared that they received the LMB grant which they are used to purchase laptops for youth, CCWD attire that youth can use to wear to work, and other miscellaneous funds. Ms. Vozzella explained the focus areas for the current year: 1) maximize ARPA funding, 2) reduction in PWEX length, 3) model work experience with Knorr-Bremse, 4) identify opportunities through Blueprint staff/initiatives, and 5) define and grow WIOA mentoring program.

4. **Committee Member Updates-** Mr. Abell shared about the Maryland Apprenticeship Connector. Their goal is to connect industries with school system/LEAs, help fiscal systems develop, and to help bridge the gap with communicating about Blueprint. If the committee has questions or wants to learn more about the Maryland Apprenticeship Connector, please contact Chris Abell.

Ms. Vozzella adjourned the meeting at 2:58 pm.