



Carroll County Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18th, 2025

Exploration Commons, 9:30am

Quorum? No (12/17) Molly Sherman, CTIC- present Rose Mince, CCC- present William Eckles, CCPS- present Matti Franzén, Best Western- present Julie Givens, MD DOL- present, virtual Kimberley Grade, Lifebridge Health- present, virtual Mike McHale, Local Union 24- present Maria Buckley, DORS- present Brandon Schweitzer, UMGC- present Zach Tomlin, Tomlin Tech- present Denise Beaver, Carroll County Department of Economic Development Margaret Welliver, Shelter Systems- present, virtual	Staff & Guests (9) Teresa Mena, MD DOL Heather Powell, CCWD Tammy Haines, CCWD Eileen Vozzella, CCWD Georgia Allen, CCWD Scott Singleton, CCWD, virtual Shelby O’Leary, CCWD Corey Hardinger, Carroll County Government Diana Hare, Carroll County Department of Economic Development
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The meeting began at 9:37 am.

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Mr. Tomlin thanked the Board for attending and began introductions.
2. **Action Items-**
 - Approve Minutes from the February 19th, 2025, meeting- The minutes will be voted on via email.
 - Approve PY25 FY26 WIOA Allocation Approval- Ms. Powell shared with the Board that the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding for FY26 and PY25 includes a 22% cut overall to the three WIOA grants (adult, dislocated worker, and youth), notably with a 27% cut to the dislocated worker portion. She explained that CCWD is fortunate to have carryover funds from the previous year that will help absorb the cuts while refocusing on service delivery and exploring other grant opportunities. The funding will be voted on via email.
3. **Old Business-**

- Local Plan Update/Compliance Items- Ms. Powell thanked the Board for their work and approval of the local plan. She shared that the local plan has been submitted to the Governor's Workforce Board (GWIB). The plan will be reviewed and sent back with their final edits. Edits are estimated to be returned in September from the GWIB. Once those edits have been made, the plan will be presented again to the local workforce board. She also reported that the program PY24 audit and fiscal FY25 audit conducted in February and March of 2025 were both clean and Carroll County was recognized for best practices.

4. **New Business-**

- Annual Convening- Ms. Powell reported that the Annual Convening will be on Wednesday, September 24th. This will be in partnership with the Kiwanis Club, with a business-focused event during the day and a family or parent-focused event in the evening. More information will be sent out to the Board as it becomes available.
- One-Stop Operator Review and Contract Renewal Committee- Ms. Powell asked the Board for volunteers to join the committee to review the one-stop operator contract. This would be the third renewal of the contract. Mr. Schweitzer and Ms. Sherman volunteered to join the committee.

5. **Focus: Agriculture in Carroll County** – Diana Hare, Agriculture Development Specialist in Carroll County Economic Development, presented on agriculture in Carroll County.

- She noted a decrease in farmland available for crops and livestock, however, the quality of products has remained the same or increased, indicating that farmers are making the most of the land they have.
- She highlighted a shift towards larger farms as well.
- Ms. Hare also discussed the significant equine industry in Carroll County, estimating around 6,000 horses, which represents about 30% of the farmland.
- Ms. Hare and Ms. Beaver shared the purchase of Shamrock Farm by the Maryland Stadium Authority for development of a training facility for approximately 400 horses. The project, valued at over \$110 million, is part of a broader initiative to redevelop the horse racing industry around Pimlico. The facility will create employment opportunities and potentially boost local business through purchases of goods like grains and hay. The project is in its early stages, with the Maryland Stadium Authority planning future community outreach efforts.
- She also introduced a new agritourism passport program that launched June 1st, which encourages visitors to explore local farms and receive stamps at 21 participating locations. After completing stamps from at least 10 locations, participants can return their passport for a completion prize as well as be entered into a drawing for a grand prize.
- Ms. Hare concluded with insights about diverse career opportunities in agriculture, highlighting non-farming roles like turf management, research, and photography.

6. CCWD Updates- Ms. Powell gave a tribute to Tammy Haines, Employment Services Supervisor, who is retiring after 30 years of service, during which she helped thousands of county residents with job training and placement.

- Grant Updates- ARPA funds are due to expire June 30, 2026. CCWD plans to fully expend these funds, focusing on the Summer Youth Program and customer training. There is recent concern of possible callback from the federal administration. Ms. Powell will keep the Board updated on any changes. There may be a need to advocate for local funding from the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. Ms. Powell will supply the Board with talking points should the need to advocate arise. She also stated that CCWD is waiting for allocation for Summer Youth Connections and DJS work experience grant.
- Quarterly Performance Report (Christmas Tree Chart)- Ms. Powell presented the PY 2024 Quarter 3 report to the Board. She emphasized that Carroll County met or exceeded all the performance measures. Although this is a positive outcome, these results will affect negotiations (higher measures for performance metrics in the future).
- Summer Youth Program- Ms. Vozzella shared the summer youth program is on track to have the same number of participants as last year, with 43 youth placed in 17 local businesses. She explained the program's focus on providing first work experiences for 16–18-year-olds through a combination of on-the-job training and enrichment activities on Wednesdays. The Division of Rehabilitation Services MOU was renewed and expanded to include 10 participants in CCWD summer youth program and up to 50 participants as passed through services with Carroll County Government. Ms. Vozzella discussed the need for continued advocacy and funding to maintain the program's success, as ARPA funding may not be available next year.
- Blueprint Update- Mr. Eckles noted the positive feedback from the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) on the program's progress in career development and exploration for youth in Carroll County. Ms. Powell and Mr. Eckles discussed several educational and workforce development initiatives. They described a successful spring field trip for 7th graders focused on natural resources and forestry, which will be transitioned to a fall event in the future. A new program was announced for high school students not meeting career and college readiness standards by 10th grade, involving monthly activities with community college and local businesses to develop employability skills by graduation.

7. Member Updates:

- Mr. McHale discussed the current demand for electricians, noting 26 unfilled union calls and opportunities in data centers, NSA, and Baltimore.
- Ms. Mena highlighted her weekly open forums for businesses, a monthly newsletter, and an upcoming employer outreach event at Carroll Community College.
- Ms. Beaver mentioned Carroll County Government's involvement in three work groups for the 2035 master plan, focusing on agriculture, housing, and economic development, and encouraged community input.

Mr. McHale motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am. Mr. Franzén seconded the motion.