

"DRAFT" MINUTES



March 14, 2012, 3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Anne Arundel Community College
Arnold, Maryland 21012

MEMBERS PRESENT

William G. "Bill" Robertson (Chair)
Ronald R. Peterson (Vice Chair)
Sam Abed
John M. Belcher
Frank Chaney
Adrian Chapman
B. Danny DeMarinis
Gino J. Gemignani, Jr.
Andrew B. Larson
Elliot Lasson
Roy Layne
Bel Leong-Hong
Larry Letow
George Littrell, III
Irving McConnell
Stephen K. Neal
Stephen Pannill
Marion W. Pines
Catherine Raggio
Bernard Sadusky
Martha A. Smith, Ph.D.
Harold Stinger
Margaret A. Thomas
Ingrid Turner

GWIB STAFF

Lynn Reed
Darla J. Henson
Mary O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ulysses Currie
Ted Dallas
Donna M. Gwin
Laurie Holden
Danette Howard
Sally Y. Jameson
Christian Johansson
Katherine Klausmeier
Martin G. Knott, Jr.
Susan W. Krebs
Gloria G. Lawlah
Fred D. Mason, Jr.
Gary D. Maynard
Luisa Montero
Alexander M. Sanchez

GUESTS

Bob Aydukovic
Kathy Bolton
Ann Blackfield
Anthony "Tony" Brown
Trudy Chara
Catherine Estevez
Megan Ferguson
Ellen Flowers-Fields
Paulette Francois
Jade Gingerich
Rachel Gragg
Willis Gunther
Cindy Gurne
Dean Kendall
Kevin Loeb
Andy Moser
Kathy Oliver
Sue Page
Darlene Peregoy
Ilene Rosenthal
Lisa Rusyniak
Jim Rzepkowski
Annabelle Sher
Angela Thornton
Walt Townsend
Morris Tranen
Patricia Tyler
Christine Wells
ML Wernecke
Alice Wirth

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. William Robertson, Chair, Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB), called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. He welcomed Board members and guests and asked that Board members introduce themselves.

BOARD RECOGNITION

Mr. Robertson introduced two new Board members: Mr. Adrian Chapman, President and COO for WGL Holdings, Inc., and Dr. Irving McConnell, founder of The McConnell Group, Inc. Each spoke for a few moments about their backgrounds and businesses.

MINUTES

Mr. Robertson asked members to review the December 14, 2011, Board minutes, which were distributed on-line prior to the meeting and included in the Board packets. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the minutes as written.

GWIB CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Robertson discussed the consent agenda included in the packets, and asked for any questions. None was forthcoming, and a motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the consent agenda as written.

GWIB ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Ms. Lynn Reed, Executive Director, discussed the articles from the Daily Record that were included in the packets. She explained that the GWIB and the Skills to Compete Initiative were highlighted in the articles.

PRESENTATION: SPECIALISTERNE: INNOVATIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

Mr. Robertson introduced Secretary Catherine Raggio of the Maryland Department of Disabilities. Secretary Raggio introduced Ms. Jade Gingrich, Director of Employment Policy at the Maryland Department of Disabilities, and Mr. Morris Tranen, President/CEO of PDG Rehabilitation, Inc. Secretary Raggio talked about the Specialisterne program of Denmark. This program uses the unique skills and abilities of those with autism for highly specialized tasks in certain employment areas, with specific emphasis on career in the information technology industry. When training is complete, these individuals are placed in jobs.

Secretary Raggio would like to replicate this program in Maryland as a partnership between the Maryland Department of Disabilities and PDG Rehabilitation, Inc. The details have not yet been determined, and they are looking at several models.

PRESENTATION: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) & APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Robertson introduced Ms. Rachel Gragg of the National Skills Coalition. Ms. Gragg discussed the disagreement in Washington political circles concerning the federal debt, smaller government and cutting budgets. Policy changes are now taking place without discussion. In the past, catastrophic budget cuts were made to job training programs, and seem likely to recur this year, as there is little support for job training in Congress. She believes that little will be done before the election in November, and that predictions of what will occur in December cannot be made due to the election. She suggested that the workforce training community should now focus on the WIA

Reauthorization, and should do all it can to improve the perception that Congress has of WIA. The workforce community must pull together in order to protect whatever funding remains.

A discussion followed on the failure to capture all the successes for which WIA is responsible. The system does not track the use of money effectively and the reporting mechanism does not articulate all the uses of the money, which includes training, staffing and funding. It was pointed out that states do not provide workforce funding, so that if the federal government cuts workforce funding, then that cut comes down directly to the local areas because all workforce money is federal money.

DLLR UPDATES

Ms. Paulette Francois, Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), Division of Workforce & Adult Learning (DWDAL), explained the letter contained in the packet concerning ETA final closeout notification. She also discussed the regulations needed in order to minimize the risk of a local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) not being recertified. These state regulations go beyond the federal ones, so that boards will be scrutinized on a quarterly basis in order to avoid sanctions against them. Ms. Francois pointed out that this will strengthen the WIBs. Ms. Reed said that fiscal matters will also be looked at quarterly.

Secretary Sam Abed of the Department of Juvenile Services talked about funding streams for the Workforce Reinvestment Act and how they are targeted, and may not be where they are most needed. Ms. Francois replied that it seems that funding is given to programs that succeed, so programs are rewarded for working with the easiest and most likely-to-succeed clients, rather than the most difficult ones.

Ms. Ellen Flower-Fields, Deputy Assistant Secretary, introduced a recently made DWDAL Stakeholder video. After showing the video, she said that the Board’s help in publicizing the video would be welcome.

Ms. Reed introduced Mr. Tony Brown, Associate Transportation Planner with Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP, and Ms. Christine Wells, President of Crossroads Transportation, LLC. These guests are working with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on the “Start Up” Project. Ms. Francois stated that this project will align our workforce system with these two agencies as they plan for the Red Line and Purple Line transit work. She is happy to work together during the planning stages so that DLLR can train needed individuals and move them into the pipeline for this project. This will allow the contractor to have “one stop shopping” for employees with the training they need.

Mr. Robertson said that private industry can do the same thing: if multi-year projects are on the drawing board, working in advance with DLLR can ensure employees with the needed skills are available for the project.

There being no other business, Mr. Robertson adjourned the meeting at 5:26pm.

(Signature)

(Date)