

Dwayne Myers, Chair
Dynamic Automotive

Dr. Philip Brown
Phoenix Mecano

M.C. Keegan-Ayer
Frederick County Council

Dani Adams
Frederick County Building Industry
Association

Jackie Byerly
Department of Social Services

Ramenta Cottrell
City of Frederick
Department of Housing and Human
Services

Molly Coughlan
Country Meadows Retirement
Communities

Richard Griffin
City of Frederick
Department of Economic Development

Jenna Freeman
Maryland Department of Labor

Vacant
Citizens Services Division

Monica Kolbay
ArachnidWorks, Inc.

Kimberley Levine
Frederick County Chamber of
Commerce

Patti Maluchnik
Georgetown Insurance Service

Jennifer Szabo
Adult Education & Family Literacy/FCC

Dr. Molly Carlson
Frederick Community College

Susan Pacific
Frederick Regional Health System

Anne Paxton
Frederick County Public Schools

Sharon Plump
Division of Rehabilitation Services

Katie Stevens
Office of Economic Development

Justin Saltzman
Verita Real Estate Advisors

Emily Snyder
Horizon Farm Credit/Rocky Point
Creamery & Farm

Carmen Voso
IBEW Local No. 24

Workforce Development Board

Investing in People

“A Frederick County where every person has the opportunity to maximize his or her career potential and all local employers have the human resources they need to grow and prosper and Frederick’s workforce system is the “go to” for businesses who need skilled employees.”

Frederick County Workforce Development Board
September 8, 2023
8:30am

Board Members Present: Dwayne Myers, Dani Adams, Jackie Byerly, Molly Coughlan, Richard Griffin, Jenna Freeman, Lara Fritts, Monica Kolbay, Patti Maluchnik, Barbara May, Dr. Kristine Pearl, Sharon Plump (proxy), Emily Snyder, Jennifer Szabo, Carmen Voso

Board Members Absent: Dr. Philip Brown, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Molly Carlson, Ramenta Cottrell, Kimberley Levine, Anne Paxton, Justin Saltzman

Staff Present: Joyce Bouchard, Kara Fritz, Patty McDonald, Micha Hagans, Jessica Mills

Guests Present: Jennifer Ejik (proxy for Sharon Plump)

8:31 am Welcome and Introductions and thanks

Dwayne Myers, Board Chair welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order and began introductions.

Governors Workforce Development Board Updates

Kara shared updates related to the Governors Workforce Development Board. Rachael Stevens-Parker has been appointed as the new Executive Director. Kara shared that Rachel will be connecting with the local area Directors and Boards in the future.

Blueprint for Maryland’s Future updates and discussion

Kara shared that Frederick County’s Career Coach program kicked off in July and is underway with Frederick County leading the way as the first in the state to have their program up and running by the 1st day of school. Career Coaches participated in a 7-week training which included information on local labor market and career pathways. Kara “thanked” the Board members for their support in offering visits and opportunities for the career coaches to learn about what their business does.

Kara shared that Workforce Services has hired their Career Coach Coordinator who will begin later this month and will collaborate with FCPS Career Coaching staff. Dr. Pearl shared the career coaches have been helpful in already connecting students to local

apprenticeship opportunities and shared that Country Meadows will be hiring an apprentice soon and Dani shared that one of the coaches has joined the Women in Trades Committee.

Summer Jobs Program Highlights

Kara shared highlights of the 6-week Summer Jobs program which provided paid employment opportunities for local 14-21 year old youth and young adults with barriers to employment. The program included training for job readiness skills and participants earned minimum wage for their work experience. 61 youth and 27 local businesses participated in the program this year. Kara shared that participant numbers are lower than previous years due to funding levels remaining level but minimum wage increasing in addition to Youth finding employment opportunities that pay more than the minimum wage.

Emily asked how businesses can connect to host an opportunity. Kara stated that she would share this information with the Board.

Dani asked Kara to share this information with the Frederick County Building Industry Association (FCBIA) members as well.

Public Workforce System Overview

Patty shared an overview of the Public Workforce System with the Board. She shared how the funding of the programming which begins at the US Department of Labor passes through to the State of Maryland to the Local area. She shared that each entity provides guidelines on how the funding can be spent.

Patty shared that Frederick's Local Workforce Development System is comprised of many required partners including Maryland Department of Labor, Workforce Services, Department of Social Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Frederick Community College and Jewish Council for the Aging who provide specific programming.

Individualized programming developed by Workforce Services is informed by local industry, specifically High-Growth, High-Demand fields which are identified in our Local Plan. The goal of this programming is to connect job seekers to employment and career pathway opportunities in local industries that will lead to self sufficient wages.

Patty shared information on Workforce Services on-demand programming which can be accessed by anyone. These programs are designed to provide assistance such as Job Search advice, resume and interview preparation to customers via walk-in, appointment, virtual meeting or phone. Services can be self directed or staff assisted and may include in-person or virtual classes or instruction.

Dwayne asked the Board to help spread the word about the services offered.

Program Spotlight: Resilient Frederick County

Micha Hagans, Program Manager for the Resilient Frederick County (RFC) shared information about this vital program which provides occupational wellness for participants in recovery. Micha shared that work is one of the main indicators that someone remains successful in recovery. Micha stated that 481 individuals have connected or inquired about the RFC program. Out of this number 301 have received assistance such as resource information or navigation and 92 have been registered into employment and training activities. The Recovery to Work Academy (R2W) within the RFC program provides additional support including peer to peer support groups led by a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist.

Micha shared that while Frederick is known for having many robust treatment programs, many participants of these programs are only in Frederick County temporarily which may make an individual ineligible to participate with this grant program. Micha has shared that local areas are providing feedback to the State and Federal regulators about guidelines such as this with the hopes that future funding will have less limitations.

Dwayne asked about if the restrictions are policy or legislative. Micha shared they are legislative and conversation has been happening about these painpoints. Dwayne if business involvement would help these conversations, Micha shared that having a business input would “absolutely help”.

Youth Scholarship

Monica shared the committee is still reaching out to businesses for support of the fund. She will be asking The Community Foundation for a full list of donations.

Approval of June 2023 meeting minutes

The Board was presented with the minutes from the June 2023 Workforce Development Board meeting.

Richard **motioned** for approval, Patti **seconded**.

Approved unanimously.

Other Business

Barbara shared that United Way is giving away Chromebooks to the community.

Richard shared that the City of Frederick was awarded the Good Jobs Great Cities grant that will assist with Youth finding local job opportunities. He commended Michelle and Kara for their collaboration and assistance in providing guidance. Frederick was 1 of 16 cities in the Country to be awarded.

With no further business to discuss Patti **motioned** for the meeting the be adjourned. Richard **seconded**. Meeting **adjourned** at 9:37 am.

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