



**Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board  
Minutes  
June 23, 2010**

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Board Members in Attendance: Patrick Baker, Anthony Cancelosi, Stephen Cain, Stewart Edelstein, Dennis Fallen, Kate Garvey, Lori Golino, Susan Heltemes, Elyse Kaplan, Susan Leggett-Johnson, Stephen Kornblatt, Sharan London, Kathryn Mannes, Deborah Murphy, David Rodich, Ted Rose, Eugene Spencer, Carrie Shelton, Dawn Weglein

Guests in Attendance: Bernie Reynolds, Elijah Clarke, John Korpella, Donna Kinerney, Pam Saussy Rachael Glass

Staff in Attendance: Barbara Kaufmann, Gaye Barksdale, Cassandra Boyd

Chair Lori Golino called the meeting to order at 8:05 am. She reported that Sharon Julius from the state's Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) has retired and therefore resigned from the WIB. When her replacement is named, we will work with the State to have him/her appointed to the WIB.

Golino called on Secretary Susan Leggett-Johnson to present the minutes of the February 17, 2010 WIB meeting. A motion to approve the minutes were made, seconded and passed.

Department of Economic Development Director, Steve Silverman, was unable to attend the meeting. In his place, John Korpella who is responsible for the County's network of Innovation Centers made a presentation of the five Centers, their focus, and occupancy. Information on the Innovation Centers can be found at <http://www.mcinnovationnetwork.com/>.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Lori Golino thanked John for his hospitality today and throughout the strategic planning process.

**Executive Committee Report**

Golino presented the material in the Board packets, which included notes from the Board's Strategic Planning Retreat and from the focus groups held with businesses, stakeholders, and customers. She discussed the work of the Strategic Planning Team and how the data from the full Board retreat and the focus groups helped shape the work of the team. She also explained the process going forward. The team is finishing the draft plan; the Executive Committee will review this summer and the plan will be presented to the full WIB for review and approval in September.

The plan has business as the primary customer. After the presentation, there was discussion and questions as follows:

- Government is large employer; under the plan are they a business?
- Under the Workforce Investment Act, accountability measures are tied to the customer/individual; that will have to be taken into account if the emphasis of services is on the demand side
- WIB needs to implement the plan; unless you execute, it is worthless.
- Remember the County's diverse populations and access issues

### **Panel on Adult Education Services in Montgomery County and Discussion on shape of future services in Montgomery County**

The presenters were:

- Donna Kinerney, Instructional Dean, Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Montgomery College;
- Pam Saussy, Executive Director, Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. and
- Rachel Glass, Executive Director, Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL).

They described adult education needs in Montgomery County, the services provided and Pam and Donna explained their proposed grants to the State for services. This topic was presented because:

1. The requirement of local workforce investment boards (LWIB) cooperative agreements with those receiving a grant from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to provide Adult Education and Family Literacy Services in Montgomery County.
2. Increased discussion in the reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act is more closely aligning workforce and adult education services; and
3. The need for adult education services for many of the MontgomeryWorks customers.

### Discussion

Board members were excited to see the programs connections to industry.

Board members described their challenges with workers literacy and how they tried to address it. For some, it confirmed that the strategic plan is correct to emphasize business.

### **Committee Reports: Presentation and Discussion**

#### **Board Development** (Susan Heltemes)

Attendance Absence Policy. This was presented in February and came back to the Board Development, Committee, which made the requested changes. The policy is now ready for WIB approval. A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the policy.

Benchmarking Report. No action is required; the report which is essentially completed is helpful in understanding how Montgomery County WIB compares to other WIBs.

**Communications and Outreach** (Steve Cain)

Cain reported on the 2010 Awards Breakfast.

**Program Operations and Evaluation** (Elyse Kaplan)

The committee reviewed the latest Workforce Investment Act performance reports provided by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. The reports covered Program Year 09 quarter three. The committee expressed concern about the apparent downward trend in performance for all three funding streams: WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and WIA Youth. Committee members expressed interest in understanding the contributing factors that led to this downturn. A rich discussion ensued regarding environmental conditions and programmatic activities that contribute to performance outcomes. For example, the Entered Employment, Retention, and Average Earnings measures all have been directly affected by the economy. We can argue that other workforce areas have experienced the same economic impacts and have been able to maintain adequate performance levels. The committee charged with staff with two related tasks.

- 1) Reach out to other workforce areas that are performing well to explore how they are maintaining performance in the midst of declining economy and
- 2) Develop programmatic and data management strategies that the staff and vendors will (or have) implement to address performance concerns.

Specifically related to WIA Youth programming, the committee expressed concern that increasing the percentage of funding being spent on Out-of-School youth can potentially have a deleterious affect on our ability to meet the WIA Youth performance standards. WIA requires that 30% of the WIA Youth funds are spent on Out-of-School which are typically the most difficult to serve. In Montgomery County, we have chosen to expend 60% due to the large number of Out-of-School youth without access to programs and activities.

**Youth Council** (Steve Kornblatt)

Steve Kornblatt reported on the 2010 Summer Employment Program. This year DED will have two summer programs. DED has created several partnerships in order to increase the number of youth being served this year. Health & Human Services has provided funding to offer youth in foster care an opportunity to work and gain valuable employment related skills. We have also created a partnership with Montgomery County Park & Planning, Recreation, Maryland Multicultural Center and Great Seneca Park to bring the Civic Justice Corps to Montgomery County.

The Civic Justice Corp is a unique summer program offered by the Maryland State Parks. Some 30 youth will be working with the men and women of the Maryland Park Rangers and the Conservation Corps to improve the health and maintenance of Maryland's state parks and Montgomery County Parks. ARRA funding will be used to support the Civic Justice Corp project. Over 100 youth have been placed in worksites in a variety of industries to include IT, Health Care, Education, and Businesses.

**Finance** (Ted Rose)

This year's allocations will help offset the loss of ARRA funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am