



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 28, 2007
Department of Economic Development
111 Rockville Pike, Suite 800
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

Board Members in Attendance

Carrie Shelton (Chair), Edward Rose (Finance Chair), Patrick Baker, Stephen Cain, Stewart Edelstein, Susan Heltemes, Shelley Johnson, Kathryn Mannes, Donald Moragne, David Rodich, Eugene Spencer and Warren Williams

Guest in Attendance

Gerald Aldridge, Career Transition Center, Inc.; Lisa Cuzzo, Career Transition Center, Inc.; and Douglas Propher, Career Transition Center, Inc.

Staff in Attendance

Hugh Bailey (DED – DWS), Gaye Barksdale (DED – DWS), and Trina Green (DED – DWS)

Board Members Not in Attendance

Pat Flanagan, Pradeep Ganguly, Kate Garvey, Sharon Julius, Carmen Larsen, Harriett Shapiro, Jerry Shapiro and Dewey Thomas

Chair Carrie Shelton called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chair's Report

Chair Carrie Shelton gave an update to the Leadership Forum where the Governor's Workforce Investment Board hosted the Local Workforce Investment Board's across the state. Three overall goals of the O'Malley/Brown administration were identified as strengthening the middle class, growing small businesses and building vital communities. Secretary Tom Perez and Bill Robertson, GWIB Chair detailed a workforce blueprint that each LWIB used to identify issues and concerns for their respective areas. Chair Shelton and Mr. Bailey disclosed the need for additional state funding for targeted training as an issue for Montgomery County and support for WIA reauthorization. They expressed the support for participants to meet their needs due to diminishing funding and support costs for child care, transportation, etc. as areas of concern. Some of the major concerns were funding and marketing one-stop outreach services. Another unilateral issue was the emerging youth workforce; the GWIB announced that it would be forming a Youth Council to address those concerns.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHR) oversees the *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)* Program formerly known as welfare: *Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)* and the *Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS)* programs. TANF provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. Maryland has 59 million dollars of TANF funds available; 13 million dollars is reserved for Montgomery County.

In Maryland, welfare and workforce are separate systems, with limited communication and coordination that varies from one jurisdiction to another. TANF and WIA officials have a lack of mutual understanding of the roles played, and the performance measures and funding streams for each agency. While the State monitors TANF welfare agencies, local workforce investment areas are monitored differently.

The GWIB has requested that the Department of Social Services and Local Workforce Development Investment Areas combine resources in a collaborative and efficient manner to ensure that our labor supply keeps pace with the demands of our growing economy to assist the populations commonly served. Going forward, TANF and WIA officers will develop a joint plan that leverages resources for all workers and businesses. The plan will discuss the proposed treatment of target populations commonly served by both agencies. DHR, DLLR and the GWIB would approve and monitor the plans annually.

Board Value

Chair Shelton revealed a plan to add an educational series to the agenda for FY08. Future board meetings would feature guest speakers from the education systems keeping with the board's collaboration initiative. Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools has been confirmed to address the board at the February 20, 2008 meeting. In addition, Dr. Brian Johnson, President of Montgomery College will be the honorary guest at the June 18, 2008 board meeting. The goal is to give all of the educational institutions in Montgomery County an opportunity to present at future board meetings.

Board members shared their vision on what they believed to be the fundamental roles board members should undertake while serving on the Workforce Investment Board and the value each member possess while serving. Members also discussed how the WIB should impact the workforce investment area and how it could better serve the community. Members expressed how their participation on the board has strengthened their knowledge of the workforce investment system and has enabled them to better serve the customers in their respective industries.

Motion to approve September 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes.

Stewart Edelstein requested statistical data on the persons being served at MontgomeryWorks be provided to the board regularly. He suggested that these reports would enhance the board's ability to assess the services being offered at the one-stop to its customers.

Motion approved.

Presentation

Gerald Aldridge, Business Services Manager and Lisa Cuzzo, Director of Operations for MontgomeryWorks outlined the menu of outreach strategies that are used by the business outreach team to serve their customers – the business community and job seekers. This cross-agency team, comprised of representatives from the Career Transition Center, TransCen and DLLR, are committed to building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with the business community across many industries. They will cultivate these relationships by providing a host of services including networking, industry specific recruiting, employer forums, training grants, outplacement services, and job postings on the Maryland Workforce Exchange. MontgomeryWorks has a business outreach advisory board whose mission is to better connect the cross-agency team players with a goal of streamlining services for their customers.

Committee Reports

Communications & Outreach Committee

The Workforce and Economic Development Awards breakfast was held on October 30, 2007 at the North Bethesda Conference Center. Bruce DePuyt from News Channel 8 was the moderator at this year's event that had an approximate 500 persons in attendance. A semi-formal reception honoring the award recipients and their achievements was held on October 29, 2007. This year's award winners by category

were Director's Award – Dewey Thomas, Incubator Company of the Year Award – Radius Technology Group, Agricultural Environmental Innovation Award – Ruppert Nurseries, Mentorship Award – Don Moragne of The Success Zone, Economic Development Advancement Award – Khera Communications, Inc., Economic Development Leadership Award – Sodexho, Workforce Determination Award – Richard Massey, Workforce Leadership Award – MicroManos, Participant of the Year Award – Emma Selassie, Senior Participant of the Year Award – Joe Saunders, Disability Hiring Award – Snyder, Cohn, Collyer, Hamilton & Associates, P.C., and Youth Participant of the Year Award – Edwin Lopez.

The board currently has eleven vacancies and is seeking representatives from its four identified industry clusters; advanced technology, construction, healthcare, and sales & service and retail industries. Applicants should forward a brief resume detailing pertinent experience and business, civic or community group association to County Executive Isiah Leggett at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850 or send an e-mail to countyexecutive.boards@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Ted Rose reported FY08 WIA funding increased by \$62,306 for 2008. We are on target to spend the majority of funds with some carry-over.

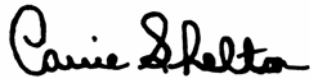
Workforce Updates

The Department of Economic Development and members of the Executive Committee conducted interviews for the Workforce Services Manager position and anticipates the position will be filled within the next couple of weeks.

New Business

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Universities of Maryland, Shady Grove Center, 9640 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



Carrie Shelton, Chair

Date