

Meeting of Montgomery County Workforce Development Board*
April 2, 2025
8:30 AM

*A full recording of this meeting can be accessed via [Zoom](#) with passcode: #KCx&8N0
NOTE: Video time stamps are provided for each agenda item below.

Board Attendees: Kevin Armstrong, Jewru Bandeh, Michelle Bell, Dr. James Bridgers, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Todd Cohen, Stephanie Crane, Barbara Ebel, Scott Goldberg, Steve Greenfield, Yamil Hernández, Shant'a Johnson, Amelia Kalant, Mary Lang, Omar Lazo, Nagender Madavaram, Roxana Mejia, Natalie Mitchell, Dr. Peggy Pugh, Conrad Samuels, Grant Shmelzer, Christa Tichy, Bill Tompkins, Diego Uriburu

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Tichy called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.
2. **February Meeting Minutes** – approved without objection.
3. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Health/Hospitality (00:37)** – Dr. Bruton reported that the Committee received federal worker and contractor displacement data and what WSM is doing to support that population. Additionally, the group discussed upcoming employment events and meetings.
 - b. **IT/Life Sciences (02:31)** – Committee did not meet.
 - c. **Construction/Transportation (03:22)** – Mr. Shmelzer provided an update in Mr. Drury's absence to include how the MoCo CAP program would impact the construction industry and the need to get more employers involved in develop a pipeline talent pipeline.
 - d. **Youth/Young Adult (04:00)** – Mr. Featherstone provided an update in Mr. Madavaram's absence to include an update on the MoCo CAP Worlds of Work event and the WIOA Out-of-School Youth RFP process. Mr. Madavaram is stepping down as Committee Chair and Mr. Armstrong will assume the position beginning in May.
4. **Local & Regional Plans Approval (06:16)**
 - a. **Regional Plan** – Mr. Featherstone provided a description of the Regional Plan requirements with our Capital Region WDB partners, Frederick and Prince George's. The plan is in final draft form and was provided to the Board prior to the meeting for review. The draft plan must be approved by the full Board before being submitted to the Governor's Workforce Development Board. Motions were provided to approve and was passed unanimously.
 - b. **Local Plan** – Mr. Featherstone provided an update on the Local Plan process and status. The Governor's Workforce Development Board approved a deadline extension for submission from April 1st to May 1st. Mr. Featherstone provided the updated timeline because of the deadline extension. There was some discussion about how to most appropriately include the current state of the federal workforce reductions since collecting data is challenging in real-time and a lag is expected for that. There was continued conversation around federally displaced workers and the ripple effect it's having throughout the County and additional

industries. A e-vote via Microsoft Forms will be sent to the Board for final plan approval.

5. Executive Director Updates

- a. Federal Workforce Response (34:28) – Mr. Tompkins introduced Mobilize Montgomery, a collaboration between several county entities including WSM, to collectively address the federal workforce crisis. Mr. Featherstone would be participating in a [United in Service](#) webinar hosted by the County Council that evening. He also described several new job search tools including a [virtual career coaching](#) platform, [Google's Career Dreamer](#), and several other resources available on [WSM's website](#) and [Mobilize Montgomery](#).
- b. WIOA Youth RFP (36:36) – Mr. Featherstone explained that the Youth Committee will provide a recommendation for the next Out-of-School Youth services provider by the June meeting for approval.
- c. WIOA Performance & Impact (37:09) – Montgomery County passed or exceeded all 18 measures for the last quarterly report. Mr. Featherstone shared a WIOA Impact Report specific to Montgomery County for July 2023-June 2024 showing 3,000 residents received service, 63% obtained employment with an average starting wage of \$53,000 which equated to total annual earnings of over \$100M – the highest in the state. There was some discussion about how Board members could share this information and advocate on WSM and the WDB's behalf for federal funding.

6. **Mission Moment: MoCo CAP (52:26)** – Mr. Hattery provided a detailed recap of the Worlds of Work event that took place in March at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus and welcomed over 2,000 MCPS 8th graders. Visit [MoCo CAP's YouTube Channel](#) for more info and videos about the event. The team will evaluate the event and debrief internally to determine how to improve for future events, but overall the event was very successful. Several Board members expressed their support and offered congratulations for the event and WSM's overall recent accomplishments and performance.

7. Legislative & Government Updates (1:14:35)

- a. State
 - i. [HB1245/SB852](#) – Repealing Career Counseling – Ms. Van De Weert reported that this bill was “dead” in Committee thanks the collective advocacy efforts of the Maryland Workforce Association.
 - ii. [HB772](#) – Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students – Ms. Van De Weert explained that this bill was being heard in the Senate today (April 2) and she will be in Annapolis with a MoCo CAP Career Coach to advocate for support for the bill. She explained that there was also a version of the bill included in the Governor's Budget Bill so there was a positive outlook for passage through one of the two bills.
- b. Federal & County
 - i. NAWB Day of Advocacy – Mr. Featherstone would be meeting with Maryland and Virginia Representatives on Capitol Hill later today (April 2).
 - ii. FY26 County Budget Hearing – To take place on April 30th, no specific time known yet.

- iii. Fair Chance Symposium – Ms. Van De Weert reminded the Board members that WSM was hosting the 2nd annual event tomorrow (April 3) at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus and anticipated great turnout with a proclamation presentation from the County Council commemorating April as "Second Chance Month."

8. Mr. Lazo adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2025 @ 1801 Rockville Pike and via Zoom.