



DRAFT Meeting Minutes
JUNE 5, 2024 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE: HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
10901 LITTLE PATUXENT PKWY, COLUMBIA, MD 21044

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO VIEW THE MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR:
<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1619167053>

MEMBERS PRESENT *IP(in-person) OR V(virtual) OR V/Ph(virtual by phone)*

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| IP Carim Khouzami (Chair) | V Donna Edwards | IP Vincent “Vinny” Shiraldi |
| IP Ferris Allen, III | IP Stacey Herman | IP Marty Schwartz |
| IP Alexander Austin | V Matthew Holloway | IP Michelle B. Smith |
| IP Marco V. Ávila | IP Cory Hughes | IP Teaera Strum |
| IP Calvin Ball | V Rafael Lopez | V Michael Thomas |
| IP John D. Barber, Jr. | IP Jessica Mente | IP Perketer Tucker |
| IP Carol Beatty | V Paul Monteiro | V Charles T. Wetherington |
| V Joanne C. Benson | IP Kirkland Murray | IP Anthony “Tony” Woods |
| V Gary Bockrath | IP Myra Norton | V Carey Wright |
| V Jennifer Bodensiek | IP Sanjay Rai | IP Portia Wu |
| IP Brian Cavey | IP Carmel Roques | |
| IP Delali Dzirasa (Vice-Chair) | V Edward C. Rothstein | |

MEMBERS ABSENT

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|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Governor Wes Moore | Steve Groenke | Carolyn Scruggs |
| Kevin Anderson | Kevin D. Heffner | Brian Stamper |
| Vanessa Atterbeary | Roderick King | Inez Stewart |
| Donald Boyd | Larry Letow | Paul Wiedefeld |
| Annesa Cheek | Amie Long | Charnetia V. Young |
| Jabob “Jake” Day | Stephen K. Neal | |
| MacKenzie Garvin | Laura Herrera Scott | |

GWDB STAFF

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| IP Rachael S. Parker | IP Darla Henson | IP Molly Mesnard |
| IP Shuana Davis | IP Ben Hsieh | IP John Strickland |

GUESTS *

IP Stephanie Adibe	V Ellen Flowers-Fields	V Signe Pringle
V Jenna Bachman	IP Darren Gibson	V Kanisha Reese
V Amy Belt	IP Laura Gilwee	IP John Rivers
V Gina Best	V Brittney Hansen	V Betty Romero
IP Marlon Bonner, Jr.	V Angela Harkness	IP Jim Rzepkowski
V Jody Boone	IP David Harper	V Dan Schneckenburger
V Carol Brooks	IP Koffi Harrison	V Ashley Sharpe
IP Cherie Brooks	IP Carlos Hernandez	IP Sarah Sheppard
V Renard Brooks	V Kimberly Hiner	V Sarah Skeen
IP David Brown	IP Sheila Jackson	IP Melissa Smith
V Philip Brown	V Kimberly Justice	V Stacey Smith
IP Kristen Walsh Bucher	IP Mary Kane	V Jen Staiger
IP Brandon Butler	IP Prasad Karunakaran	V Lynn Stone
V Dwight Carr	V Sharon Kauffman	IP Jennifer Todd
IP Nona Carroll	V Mary Keller	IP Pamela Toole
V Olivia Ceccarelli	IP Heather Lageman	V Jacqueline Trieu
IP Gary Cohen	IP Kathryn Laplaca	V Kiki Tsamouras
IP Ross Cohen	V Craig Lewis	V Sarah Van De Weert
IP Sara Cooper	V Pam Luby	IP Joana Winningham
IP Rosa Cruz	V Chris Maclarion	V Laura Wright
IP Peggy DallAcqua	V Laura McCoy	V Minah Wu
IP Jennifer Dewees	V Christy Miller	V/Ph 1-443-**82
V Jael Delva	IP Homer Minnick	V/Ph 1-443-**92
V Alicia Dennis	V John Papagni	V/Ph 1-443-**89
IP Lyn Farrow	IP Jason Perkins-Cohen	V/Ph 1-443-**47
IP John Feaster	V John Papagni	
V Anthony Featherstone	V Kara Price	

**Please note, these are the guests for the meeting, guest attendance by phone could not be identified.*

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I. Welcome

Speaker: Carim Khouzami, Chair, GWDB

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Chair Carim Khouzami. He expressed gratitude to Howard Community College for hosting and providing catering, which was prepared by students from a new partnership between HCC's Center for Hospitality and Culinary Studies and the Woodlands Job Corp Center.

- Motions for approval:
 - March 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved.

II. Port of Baltimore Response

- Secretary Portia Wu highlighted the Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program that served impacted businesses providing up to \$200,000, with a maximum expenditure of \$7,500 per worker with a goal to avert layoffs and keep workers attached to jobs. The Worker Retention Program has provided assistance to keep 3,066 Port-related workers on the job. The program has issued \$17.4 million in grant relief to impacted businesses.

III. GWDB Member Highlights

Vice Chair Delali Dzirasa recognized the valuable contributions made by board members and the broader workforce development system, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and partnerships.

The highlights included:

- Initiatives supporting youth transitioning from juvenile facilities, with partnerships to enhance job readiness and employment access.
- The "Longevity Ready Maryland" initiative, which focuses on upskilling and retaining the older workforce, promoting lifelong learning for workers over 65.
- Updates on efforts to strengthen workforce pipelines, particularly through innovative programs in sectors with labor shortages.

IV. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Rachael Stephens Parker, provided updates on the board's strategic initiatives, emphasizing the transition from planning to execution under Maryland's State Workforce Plan. She gave a brief legislative update and reported out on the upcoming budget. Additional key updates included:

- **Talent Innovation Program and Fund:** A \$2 million initial pilot grant has been introduced for cyber ranges.

FY25 Budget and Staffing

The FY25 budget Total Budget of \$2.56M in state funds for staffing and special projects - \$1.86 across GWDB's generally projects/staffing and an additional \$700k specifically for CTE Committee - in the new FY, comprised of (following #s are approximate):

- \$835K GWDB standard operating budget (12% general funds, 88% reimbursable via inter-agency MOUs)
- \$150K – one-time budget line item for a study on advancing skills-based hiring, due 7/1/25
- \$250K – one-time budget line item for a study on school bus driver wages, due 7/1/25
- \$625K – passthrough funding to Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation (our total budget is roughly \$1.2M for the year not including this passthrough)
- A special allocation of \$700,000 will be dedicated to staffing the CTE Committee, including a new program manager

V. FY25 Projects and New Committee Launch

Deputy Director Shuana Davis, and Industry Partnerships Committee Chair Alexander Austin provided updates on FY25 projects and committee work. In March, the board introduced two committees and a workgroup to align with the state plan and strategic priorities: the Industry Partnerships (IP) Committee, the Access and Equity (AEC) Committee, and the Systems Alignment Workgroup.

Key updates included:

- **Industry Partnerships Committee:** The Committee focuses on ensuring Maryland's talent pipeline remains industry-led and demand-driven. The committee officially kicks off this July

with Initial projects including sector accelerators (starting with Cyber/IT and Healthcare), roundtables and interviews with industry and educators, and a study on bus driver wages.

- **Access and Equity Committee (AEC):** The Committee works to ensure the public workforce system is accessible to those facing severe barriers to employment. The committee officially kicks off this August with some initial upcoming projects to include a skills-based hiring study, policy recommendations, and potentially mapping existing training and support services. An RFP will be issued for a contractor to support the skills-based hiring study.

VI. New Policies for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Blueprint Implementation

Myra Norton, Chair of the CTE Committee, and Molly Mesnard, Deputy Director, provided an update on the committee's recent work. They emphasized the importance of stakeholder input and outlined the committee's progress in defining industry-recognized credentials and creating a comprehensive CTE framework. The committee has focused on aligning education with workforce development to meet the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, specifically ensuring that 45% of high school graduates complete the high school level of a Registered Apprenticeship or another industry-recognized credential by the 2030-31 school year. Key updates include:

- Finalizing the definition and required criteria of industry-recognized credentials.
- Developing a framework with six key priorities aimed at preparing students for employment in a modern economy.
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement to refine the CTE framework and ensure its alignment with industry needs.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Khouzami asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was put forward, seconded, and approved, and the meeting adjourned.