



Governor's Workforce Development Board Quarterly Meeting

WorkSource Montgomery American Job Center
11510 Georgia Avenue, Suite #100
Wheaton, MD 20902
March 26, 2025 - 3:00-5:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

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

(IP) Carim Khouzami (Chair)	(IP) MacKenzie Garvin	(IP) Michelle B. Smith
(V) Ferris Allen, III	(V) Matthew Holloway	(V) Inez Stewart
(IP) Alexander Austin	(V) Roderick King	(IP) Teaera Strum
(IP) Marco V. Ávila	(V) Larry Letow	(V) Michael Thomas
(V) Calvin Ball	(V) Jessica Mente	(V) Perketer Tucker
(V) John D. Barber, Jr.	(IP) Paul Monteiro	(IP) Charles T.
(V) Carol Beatty	(IP) Kirkland Murray	Wetherington
(IP) Stacey Beichler	(IP) Myra Norton	(IP) Portia Wu
(V) Erikk Bonner	(IP) Sanjay Rai	(IP) Charnetia V. Young
(V) Donald Boyd	(V) Carmel Roques	(V) Jennifer Woods
(V) Annesa Cheek	(IP) Edward C. Rothstein	
(IP) Delali Dzirasa	(V) Vincent "Vinny"	
(Vice-Chair)	Schiraldi	
(V) Donna Edwards	(IP) Marty Schwartz	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Governor Wes Moore	Steve Groenke	Carolyn Scruggs
Vanessa Atterbeary	Kevin D. Heffner	Brian Stamper
Joanne C. Benson	Amie Long	Paul Wiedefeld
Brian Cavey	Rafael Lopez	Anthony "Tony" Woods
Harry Coker	Stephen K. Neal	Carey Wright
Jabob "Jake" Day		

GWDB STAFF

Ashley Baldwin	Molly Mesnard	John Strickland
Shuana Davis	Edrees Nawabi	
Darla Henson	Rachael Parker	

GUESTS *

Maud Abeel	Chris Abell	Jacqueline Acevedo
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Stephanie Adibe	Scott Goldberg	Karen Parker
Pam Allen	Steve Greenfield	Norton Pereira
Justis Antonioli-Zigubu	Leza Griffith	Lisa Plowfield
Lynn Arndt	Natasha Guynes	Jack Porter
Jewru Bandeh	Anita Waters Hammond	Leslie Porter-Cabell
Kelsey Berkowitz	Dave Harper	Heather Powell
Steve Boden	George Hawley	Ellen Rappaport
Renard Brooks	Yamil Hernandez	Tayaabah Qazi
Wetherly Carpenter	Kimberly Hiner	John Rivers
Dwight Carr	Jen Horton	Jasmin Rodrigues
Gretchen Cheney	Jessica Issoufou	Phil Rogofsky
Todd Cohen	Kimberly Justus	Rose
Cozette Conrad	Amelia Kalant	Erin Roth
Danielle Crosby	Sharon Kauffman	Sharon Markley Schreiber
Peggy DallAcqua	Mary Keller	Lynn Stone
Noell Damron	Paige Korbakes	Christa Tichy
Jeana Davis	James LaBlanc	Mona Tinaza
Alicia Dennis	Heather Lageman	Jacqueline Trieu
Jennifer Dewees	Sara Lamback	Jacqueline "Tina" Turner
Emily Dow	Omar Lazo	Tracy Tyler
M. Drew	Aneta Lefterov	Sarah VanDeWeert
Mark Drury	Shelia Little	Luke Verdi
Stephen Duval	Pam Luby	Melissa Volpe
Barbara Ebel	Jerre Maynor	Fred Williams
Stewart Edelstein	Nancy McCart	Joana Winningham
Lyn Farrow	Meka McNeal	Laura Wright
John Feaster	Teresa Mena	V/Ph 1-301-**33
Anthony Featherstone	Kimberly Miller	V/Ph 1-443-**59
Ellen Flowers-Fields	Natalie Mitchel	V/Ph 1-443-**82
Genevieve Floyd	Eric Nelson	V/Ph 1-443-**59
Colin Fraser	Ray Newby	V/Ph 1-443-**07
Amy Fulcher-Belt	Denise Nooe	V/Ph 1-433-**62
Lauren Gilwee	John Papagni	V/Ph I-Phone

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

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I. WELCOME

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by GWDB Chair Carim Khouzami. Carim thanked attendees for their participation and extended appreciation to Anthony Featherstone, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Workforce

Development Board, and WorkSource Montgomery for hosting the meeting. The Chair outlined the agenda, highlighting key updates, Maryland's response to recent federal workforce transitions, and planning for the upcoming Strategy & Impact Retreat.

- **Motions for approval:**

- December 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

II. LEADERSHIP REPORT

Executive Director Rachael Stephens Parker provided updates on key legislative and strategic initiatives underway:

- **Staffing and FY26 Proposed Budget Update:**

The Board hired Edrees Nawabi as Research Data Analyst.

The Board is in the process of recruiting and hiring for: Senior Director, CTE; Program Manager, CTE; Senior Policy Analyst; and Manager, Policy & Strategic Initiatives, filling all positions gained in FY25.

- **Legislative Update:**

The Board is tracking several workforce-related bills, including HB0772, which proposes extending county board funding to local workforce boards for career counseling through FY2028. This bill also requires evaluation by the Accountability and Implementation Board, which may intersect with GWDB's CTE evaluation obligations under the Blueprint.

Additionally, the RAISE Act (SB0431/HB0501) was introduced to strengthen Maryland's Registered Apprenticeship system, building on the work of the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

- **Governor's Apprenticeship Pledge:**

The Pledge continues to grow, with employers across multiple industries committing to registered apprenticeship programs that promote equity and skill-building.

- **Regional & Local Planning:**

Plans are due April 1, 2025. Staff worked closely with core partners to align local guidance with the statewide workforce plan approved in 2024. Templates and process improvements were developed in response to local feedback to ensure clarity and implementation readiness.

III. FEDERAL TRANSITION & MARYLAND'S RESPONSE

Secretary Portia Wu provided an overview of the state's strategic response to recent federal workforce transitions, emphasizing the importance of cross-agency collaboration and rapid support for impacted workers. Her remarks focused on the scale of the disruption, its implications for Maryland's workforce system, and the need to tailor reskilling and employment pathways for mid-career federal professionals with technical expertise.

Local Workforce Development Board Directors Kirkland Murray of the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation and MacKenzie Garvin of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Baltimore City shared strategies being deployed on the ground. Their updates highlighted job placement services, rapid response efforts, and partnerships to engage employers and support workers in transition. The discussion underscored opportunities to leverage the federal contracting ecosystem, align training with high-growth sectors such as cybersecurity, and ensure continued employment opportunities for affected workers

Fundraising and Resource Expansion.

IV. 2025 STRATEGY & IMPACT RETREAT

Vice Chair Delali Dzirasa introduced planning efforts for the upcoming GWDB Strategy & Impact Retreat, scheduled for June 5–6, 2025. Jack Porter, Program Director for Workforce Development & Economic Policy at the National Governors Association (NGA), provided an overview of NGA's technical assistance and role in supporting retreat design and facilitation.

The retreat will focus on advancing Year 2 priorities of the Strategic Roadmap, deepening Board alignment, and enhancing system coordination. Board members were invited to share input on key issues, expected outcomes, and materials needed in advance to ensure a productive session.:

V. MARYLAND INITIATIVES

Jobs for the Future (JFF) presented updates on two statewide initiatives focused on strengthening Maryland's workforce system: sector strategies and career coaching. The sector strategies aim to address labor shortages in high-demand industries such as healthcare and cyber/IT by promoting regional leadership and private sector collaboration to build more equitable talent pipelines. The career coaching initiative centers on developing a statewide framework, launching Communities of Practice for peer learning and technical assistance, and establishing metrics to assess long-term impact. JFF also outlined opportunities for the Board to support the scaling of these efforts and ensure alignment with Maryland's broader workforce priorities.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Due to time constraints, committee updates were not facilitated during the meeting. Board members were informed that updates from each committee would be included in the follow-up email shared after the meeting.

VII. GWDB MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Due to limited time, Board members were asked to submit their updates and highlights via email following the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURN

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