Workforce Development Board Minutes

June 11, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Ruth Baker, Sara Chapman, Dr. Tyrone Chase, David Galeone, Lauren Martin, Mandi McWhirt, Cortney Monar, Carol Muir, Daniel Thompson, Francisco Vega, Anthony Ward Jr., Alicia Warren

Members Absent: Matthew Culbertson, Robert Duke, Paula Erdie, Jennifer Gauthier, Vicente Hernandez, Claudia Nelson, Tony Nichols, Jena Paquin, Georgeta Wainwright

Staff Present: Leslie Porter-Cabell, Bob Hendricks, Johanna Allen, Lashika Bonner, Julie Allen, Caroline Webber, Bonnie Nay, Patricia Bell, Maxx Hart, Paul Haddad

Guests: Bryan Ashby, Rachel Bomar, Katharine Campbell, Kerry Cleaver, Alicia Dennis, Andrew Duley, Denean Jones-Ward, Anna Moorhead, Brian Philips, Nancy Schwendeman, Dr. Paula Turner-Colman

Welcome and Rollcall – Leslie Porter-Cabell, Workforce Director, called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m. She thanked everyone for participating in today's hybrid meeting and continued with a roll call. A quorum was not present at the time.

Director's Comments – Leslie started the meeting by recognizing a couple of the guests. Since there were a number of new people in attendance, she had everyone state their name and where they were from.

The Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) is looking for a new Youth Engagement Specialist, and is requesting the board to spread the word.

Workforce Development Board

- Membership – The Administrative Specialist gave an update on the current board membership.
    - Somerset County has one vacancy that need to be filled. LSWA is pursuing a couple of leads but is open to any suggestions the Board might have.
    - Wicomico County has two vacancies. Unfortunately, Lori Lee had to step down from the Board but we already have someone to take her position.
    - Worcester County has one member whose term is coming to an end. We will be reaching out to them to find out if they want to be reappointed.
- Steering Committee Vacancies – The Steering Committee currently has a business vacancy, Lauren Martin was nominated and needs to be voted in when there is a quorum.
- Vice Chair Nominations – The position of Vice Chair is open for nominations. Any business member on the Board is eligible to be nominated for this role.

In-School Youth Policy – LSWA is proposing expanding the Youth Program to include in-school youth as well as out-of-school youth. Many other Workforce Development Boards have both programs. This would pair well with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future program and would create a pipeline for LSWA's Youth Program.

Guest Presentation

Kerry Cleaver, Workforce Development Specialist from Maryland Foodbank, gave an informative presentation about the FoodWorks culinary training program.

Ruth Baker discussed the partnership that Wor-Wic Community College (WWCC) has had with the

FoodWorks program and that it is a good pipeline to WWCC's more advanced culinary program.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna Allen
Administrative Specialist

Approved: June 11, 2025

Online participant list:

Name (original name)
Caroline Webber - LSWA
Katharine Campbell - Worcester County Public Schools
Bryan Ashby - Wicomico County Public Schools
Maxx Hart - LSWA
Francisco J. Vega - MD Labor
TAH Chase, Ph.D. - SHORE UP! Inc
Mandi McWhirt - Sysco
Brian Phillips - Worcester County Public Schools
Alicia Warren - Atlantic General Hospital
Danny Thompson - Somerset County Economic Development
Cortney Monar - Somerset County Public Schools
Pat Bell - LSWA
Denean Jones-Ward - Wor-Wic Community College