LOWER SHORE
WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

Serving as the Workforce Development Board for the Lower Shore of Maryland
A division of the Tri-County Council

Workforce Development Board Minutes

June 10, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Michael Ayres, Ruth Baker, Rachel Bomar, Roy Brewington, Dr. Tyrone Chase, Matthew Culbertson, Paula Erdie, David Galeone, Denean Jones-Ward, Lauren Martin, Mandi McWhirt, Jena Paquin, Daniel Thompson, Francisco Vega, Anthony Ward Jr.

Members Absent: Sara Chapman, Robert Duke, Andrew Duley, Jennifer Gauthier, Vicente Hernandez, Georgeta Lazar Wainwright, Carol Muir, Tony Nichols

Staff Present: Leslie Porter-Cabell, Johanna Allen, Caroline Webber, Bonnie Nay, James Lawson, Gregory Padgham

Guests: Nancy Schwendeman, Sarah Anderson, Alicia Dennis, Katharine Campbell

Welcome and Roll Call – Leslie Porter-Cabell, Workforce Director, called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. She thanked everyone for participating in today's hybrid meeting and continued with a roll call. A quorum was present.

Leslie updated the Board on the current staffing. Some of the LSWA staff were on grants that are ending and have already moved on to other employment. LSWA is still looking to hire a WIOA Program Manager, a Business Services Coordinator, and a Grants Specialist.

The minutes from the March 4, 2026 Board meeting, the Year-to-Date Fiscal Monthly Status, and the PY2025 Quarter 3 Performance Report were put up for approval as a consent agenda.
The Workforce Director asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda – **Motion:** Michael Ayres moved to approve the consent agenda. David Galeone seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Local Plan Update

Maryland State has asked for an update to the 2024-2028 Local Plan. The updates they requested were minimal, but they need to be reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Workforce Director asked for a motion to approve the Local Plan update – **Motion:** Rachel Bomar moved to approve the Local Plan update. Roy Brewington seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Workforce Development Board

- Membership -
- Somerset County has one vacancy that needs to be filled. LSWA is requesting ideas from the board to fill this vacancy.
- Worcester County has one vacancy that needs to be filled. LSWA is currently pursing leads and has asked the County for help in finding a business to fill this vacancy.
- Steering Committee Vacancies – The Steering Committee currently has a Business Member vacancy. Nominations are open for this seat.

Program Updates

Leslie and various staff members gave an update on the current programs at LSWA. One of the items discussed was the number of WARN notices that have been received and this lead to an extended

discussion about the state of manufacturing and other businesses in the area. Several resources were suggested for reference.

Board Member Topics

Denean Jones-Ward discussed several items related to Adult Education.

Rachel Bomar promoted a hiring event at TidalHealth.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna Allen
Administrative Specialist

Approved: September 9, 2026

Online participant list:

Name
Anthony Ward Jr. – Anthony E. Ward Jr. Funeral Home
Caroline Webber - LSWA
David Galeone - Gary Marshall Insurance
Denean Jones-Ward - Wor-Wic Community College
Matt Culbertson - Hardwire
Jena Paquin - DORS
Katharine Campbell - Worcester County Public Schools
Mandi McWhirt - Sysco
Sarah Anderson - Somerset County Public Schools
Dr. Tyrone Chase – SHORE Up! Inc.