



USWIB Board Meeting: 2/27/24, Chesapeake College, 5:30 p.m.

Attendees: Bill Bailey, Mary Ellen Carter, Bill Christopher, Beverly Churchill, Cliff Coppersmith, Jim Cutter, Jena Paquin, Terenda Thomas, Scott Warner

Guests: Dan Schneckenburger, Ellen Lafrankie, Samantha Parker, Erin Silva, Debbie Bowden

- I. Call to Order 5:34 p.m. by Scott Warner, Chair
- II. Maryland Economic Dashboard presentation
 - a. Erin Silva, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative
Presented dashboards, including Manufacturing Industry Dashboard, a Manufacturing Workforce Dashboard, a Transferable Skills Dashboard, and the Maryland State Economic Dashboard. The tools are free and publicly accessible.
4 dashboards
 - 1) Manufacturing Industry Dashboard: Utilizes data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which is produced and maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Shows data at the state, regional and county levels including the number of establishments, employees, wages, and location quotients.
 - 2) Manufacturing Workforce dashboard: Shows quarterly workforce data, including worker demographics, new hires, job changes, and compensation.
 - 3) Transferable Skills Dashboard: Provides tools to economic and workforce development specialists to analyze the occupational landscape. The information provided is organized into three pages: Overview, Occupations, and Technology Skills.
 - 4) Maryland State Economic Dashboard: Shows population information, labor force information, unemployment rates, housing costs/affordable housing, and income levels.
- III. Envistra LLC (Debbie Bowden)
 - a. Contractor for the Business Development role
Debbie Bowden is providing support for businesses for WIB through Incumbent Worker Training funds. The Incumbent Worker Training funds must be disbursed by November of this year. Kent, Queen Anne's and Dorchester counties are included in the Incumbent Worker Training funding. There is a \$1500 training cap

per employee, and a \$5000 training cap per company. The training must lead to certification.

ARPA funds have been mostly spent out except for about \$100,000, which is earmarked for registered apprenticeships. There may be some further opportunities to get some additional funds to continue. Debbie will be working with businesses to fund some of the required courses for apprentices. These funds will help companies save money and potentially be able to hire more employees.

IV. Minutes December 19, 2023 (board vote for approval)

a. Program participation, labor market information, budget snapshot

The meeting was one individual short of a quorum. Dan Schneckeburger will send out the minutes to poll for approval. Then the minutes can be posted on the website in order to be in compliance.

Cliff motioned for approval of the minutes from the 2/22/23 meeting. It was seconded by Bill Christopher; amend to get approval via email; motion carried unanimously.

Scholarship totals through February 25, 2024: There are 62 people in training with a total cost of \$134,000. Dislocated Worker Funds from previous years have been transferred into WIOA Adult funds. The demand for workforce training is still very high. The CDL program is still the dominant training request. Healthcare continues to be in demand.

Support for Communities grant: Funds are designated for support workers who are treating those with Opioid addiction or those who are in recovery, especially first responder support.

EARN grant: Chesapeake College with the support of WIB is applying for \$200,000 to support industries, such as manufacturing, welding, and other skilled trades. This could include incumbent workers or those at the entry level. Dan Schneckeburger will have to sign off on the grant.

V. MD Labor changes regarding Rapid Response: update

The responsibility for coordinating the Rapid Responses has changed. The previous coordinators from MD Labor have had to pivot to supporting registered apprenticeships; therefore, the WIB will now be responsible for coordinating the Rapid Response. This will include reaching out to the employers and supporting representatives. This is not in the state or local plan, which means we have a choice

whether to do this or not. Dan Schneckenburger has more meetings with Labor for contact information for agencies who attend rapid responses. Dan Schneckenburger can apply for a grant to cover the costs.

Budget snapshot: The WIOA Adult funds are the bulk of the scholarships. Once the funds are below \$100,000, the WIB will do another transfer of funds.

SNAP money is in further discussions with DSS. DSS has started referring more individuals for scholarships.

VI. Artificial Intelligence Conference: April 5, 2024

Planning for the Artificial Intelligence Conference has been ongoing since December. The conference will include three panels and a keynote speaker to kick off the event. Over 100 people have already registered. The press release for the event will go out next week.

VII. Blueprint for Maryland's Future: update

The WIB is engaging all five counties by holding bimonthly meetings to share best practices, updates on activities, and other relevant information. An industry recognized credential is required for the program. Dan Schneckenburger is working on the issue of what credentials are recognized with the AIB. AIB has to agree which credentials/programs will count. A Blueprint coordinator is on our staff and is doing blueprint part-time. If it grows, the WIB may have to transfer her completely.

VIII. One Stop Operator Report-Samantha Parker

Samantha Parker reported on American Job Center activities since the last meeting. March 4, 2024 will be the next quarterly meeting. During the meeting, the groups share trends that they are observing. The Artificial Intelligence conference has gone out on the listserv. The registration link for the Professional Development was sent out. The cap for participants is seventy, and twenty-five individuals have registered so far. Representatives from two of our other partners is needed. The focus of the professional development is customer service.

IX. Executive Director Report-Dan Schneckenburger

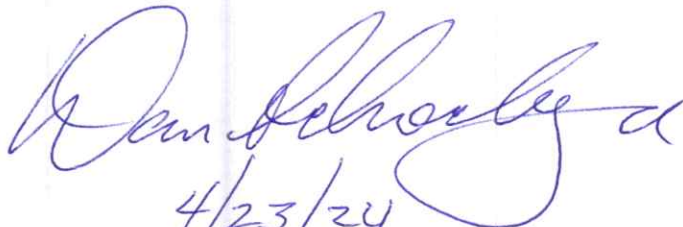
Dan Schneckenburger reported on his activities since the 12/19/23 meeting. He attended the Rural Maryland Council Legislative breakfast and Executive Board Meeting and was asked to be on the Executive Board. He also attended the Maryland Workforce Association retreat in the Southern Maryland region. Mr. Schneckenburger was accepted into Leadership Maryland class of 2024.

X. Announcements

- a. Board meeting: April 23, 2024 (in person; Chesapeake College)
- b. Regional Job Fair: May 2024, Chesapeake College
- c. Board meeting: May 28, 2024 (5:30 p.m.)

XI. Adjourn

Cliff Coppersmith made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bill Christopher. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


4/23/24