

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (LWDB)**

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**Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
Local Workforce Board Meeting Minutes**

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Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Board Members:**

Brian Courtien  
Charnetia Young  
Dawnn Leary  
Debbie Livingston  
Deni Taveras  
Ebony Stocks^  
Jacqueline Boles  
Jean-Paul Cadet^  
Jeff Henderson  
Jim Rosapepe  
Kari Pompilii

Kelly Bishop  
Lindsay Dively  
Mitch Mitchell  
Natalie Mitchell  
Pat Philippe  
Rasheeda Jamison  
Sara McDonough  
Stephen Neal  
Troy Green  
Dr. Yvette Snowden^

^Designee

**Employ Prince George's Staff**

Walter Simmons  
Jamie Gunnell  
Jeffrey Dufresne  
Portia Hurtt

Vernice Gonzalez  
Angelica Brown  
Lisa Barber

**County & State Leadership**

Angie Rodgers, Office the Prince George's County Executive  
Ken Lemberg, Governor's Workforce Development Board

**Welcome**

The meeting opened at 9:04 a.m. with greetings from Executive Director Walter Simmons.

**Review of Minutes**

**Charnetia Young**

- Minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting were presented for approval.
  - Motion made by Deni Taveras; seconded by Jacqueline Boles and carried unanimously.

### WDB Updates

**Board & Staff**

- **Board Chair Election**
  - Jim Rosapepe motioned to approve Charnetia Young as Board Chair; seconded by Mitch Mitchell and carried unanimously.

### Old Business

**Board & Staff**

- **AJC National Harbor Update (AJC Committee)**
  - Jamie Gunnell provided an update that the AJC National Harbor is on schedule to be complete in mid-March. However, due to COVID-19, it will not be open to the public.
  - COVID-19 appropriate grand opening events will be coordinated, and the board will be invited.
- **Local Plan Update (AJC Committee)**
  - Walter Simmons reminded the LWDB that the Local Plan is due April 1. Walter is aiming to submit the plan for local comment by Friday, February 19.
- **Budget Update (Finance Committee)**
  - Jeffrey Dufresne provided a budget update and noted that we can expect a 12% carry over into next year for the Adult and Dislocated Worker Budget and 17% for the Youth Budget.
  - The Finance Committee recommended that the LWDB approve the budget; the motion carried unanimously.

### New Business

- **Quarter 2 WIOA Performance Report** **Vernice Gonzalez**
  - Vernice Gonzalez shared a report on WIOA Performance Outcomes for PY20 2nd Quarter.
  - Walter Simmons shared that Prince George's County and Baltimore City have the largest population of out-of-school youth in Maryland.
  - Deni Taveras stated that 46% of her district population does not have a high school diploma.
  - Sara McDonough added that 12.8% of people aged 25 and up do not have their high school diploma in the county.
  - Walter Simmons added that 80% of all adults with a high school diploma were basic skills deficient last year.
  - Senator Rosapepe added that the Post-COVID Jobs Act has a provision that provides funding for basic skills training.

**Portia Hurtt**

- **Policy Review & Approval**

- Budget Development Policy
  - Jeffrey Dufresne highlighted that the first page defines the relationship between the county, the Local Workforce Development Board, and Employ Prince George's.
  - **The Finance Committee recommended that the LWDB approve the Budget Development Policy; the motion carried unanimously.**
- Local Area Training Provider Exception Policy
  - Portia Hurtt presented the Local Area Training Provider Exception Policy stating that this policy was created for providers, not on the Maryland Eligible Training Provider List.
  - **The AJC Committee recommended that the LWDB approve the Local Area Training Provider Exception Policy; the motion carried unanimously.**
- Emergency Operations Policy
  - Portia Hurtt presented the Emergency Operations Policy stating the purpose is to ensure the preservation & protection of human life, property, and to the extent feasible, the continuity of services provided in the event of an emergency.
  - **The AJC Committee recommended that the LWDB approve the Local Area Training Provider Exception Policy; the motion carried unanimously.**

- **Legislative Update**

- Portia Hurtt provided an update that Employ Prince George's is monitoring legislative updates at a federal, state, and local level.
- The Senate passed the Relief Act at the Maryland General Assembly, and the governor signed it. This act includes funding allocated to workforce development. Portia will keep the board updated on the status and availability of funding.
- Portia provided an update that EPG is looking at legislation regarding re-entry, allowing citizens into a more easily accessible job market, including legislation on bundling expungements.
- Deni Taveras announced that she supported an apprenticeship and re-entry bill to ensure that there would be a proper representation of African American and Latino persons on various boards and commissions, including:
  - HB409 – Juvenile Restoration Program
  - Baltimore City & Prince George's County Diversionary & Re-Entry Program
  - SB155 & HB216 – Tuition exception for foster care recipients & homeless youth

- FB127 – Higher education, so that the use of criminal history could be exempt, to ensure that youth with a criminal background can be admitted to college
- MD96 – A pilot program for Maryland Higher Education Outreach & College Access
- Senator Rosapepe updated that he and Walter Simmons were able to include a provision in the bill that the governor proposed & signed on Monday to help with the COVID crisis that provides formula funding for workforce boards to complete workforce efforts (job matching, training, employer subsidies, etc.) that must be spent by the end of this fiscal year in the bill.
- Additionally, Senator Rosapepe has another bill that makes it clear, policy-wise, that state-funded training can be completed online. It also provides more money to workforce boards over several years to help the community get back to work. Finally, they overturned the governor’s veto of the Kirwan Education Funding Legislation, and now they’re working on Kirwan 2.0.

**Adjournment**

**Charnetia Young**

- Next Meeting: April 21, 2021, via virtual Zoom meeting. The link will be provided in advance of the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.