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# Baltimore Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

## Logistics

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Date: September 17, 2021

Time: 8:00a.m-10: 00a.m

Location: Virtual via WebEx

<https://oedworks.webex.com/oedworks/j.php?MTID=m3da71855f314d0e0bef38a3d5d4cda7b>

## Attendance:

**Board Members:** Bob Embry, Glen Middleton, John C Weiss, Jermaine Jones, Mark Foster, Michael Thomas (for Debra McCurdy), Marci Hunn, Melanie Williams, Nancy Jordan-Howard, Lisa Rusyniak, Rachel Pfeifer, Sara Cooper, Melanie Styles, Thomas Penny, Tracy Queen, Willy Moore, and Yariela Kerr-Donovan

**Non-Board Members:** Antonio Logan, Billie Malcolm, Brandon Scott, Catherine Pitchford, Ché Evans, Catonya Lester, Craig Lewis, Senator Cory McCray, Diedre Moore-Durant, Delia Henry, Ernest Dorsey, Joy Brown, Jason Perkins-Cohen, Jenny Hope, Jonathan Smeton, Krysti Dickerson, Kristi France-Gibbs, Linda Dworak , Lisa Gorman, Liz Torres Brown, Maurice Blanding, Neishall Schuyler, Patti Morfe, Philip Leaf, Rosemary Woren, Ryan Smith, Shantrice Cooper-McKoy, Shvilla Rasheem, Susan Christiansen, Tiffani Truss and Yvette Clark

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### 1. Welcome-BWDBChair

- Board Chair Yariela Kerr-Donovan welcomed attendees. The minutes from the board meeting on were approved. Motion made by Lisa Rusyniak and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Jordan-Howard.

### 2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

- Jason Perkins-Cohen reviewed the potential proposals for funding under ARA and explained each proposed initiative / strategy (**see attached**):
  - HireUp has started

- Occupational Train Up RFP was released last week and the bidder's conference is today. The login information was shared in the chat
- Transportation incentive
- Jason Perkins-Cohen asked for RFP reviewer volunteers, and those that have volunteered are:
  - Billie Malcom; Marci Hunn; Melanie Styles, Nancy Jordan-Howard and Sara Cooper
- Community Job Hubs

### 3. Vision 2020

Yariela Kerr-Donovan explained Vision 2020 and the graphic to make it top of mind for the Board again as further discussions will be taking place

### 4. Committee Updates

- **Business Engagement** – John Danko and Willy Moore
  - Provided an update on the September meeting including a presentation on apprenticeship from MD Labor
- **Operations** – Yariela Kerr-Donovan
  - Announced that this committee is coming back as the Career Centers are fully open
  - There was a request for new members
- **Strategic Alliance** – Yariela Kerr-Donovan
  - Strategic Alliance will be reintegrated and the focus will no longer be on policy
  - The Board members are so diversified and the boards and groups they belong to, that Strategic Alliance will work to connect the works of the various boards and groups or members belong
  - Will discuss further as the 2019 material need be refreshed and updated
  - There was a request for new members as well as a Chair and Co-Chair
- **Youth** – Rachel Pfiefer and Sara Muempfer
  - Work is continuing to work on their 6-12-24 month action plan
  - The focus is on leadership; Voice of Youth; and Youth as Experts
  - Working on increasing youth jobs and wraparound services
  - Baltimore Promise youth are working with the Youth Committee and are being compensated
  - Youth will meet again November 11 and the action plans should be completed by that meeting
- **Workforce System Effectiveness** – Nancy Jordan Howard and Melanie Styles
  - WSEC will take the oversight of WIDS on an interim basis
  - MOED anticipates taking WIDS at the end of the year
  - WSEC met on September 10 and will meet again September 20
  - There was a request for additional members
- **MOED Updates** – Jason Perkins-Cohen and Yariela Kerr-Donovan
  - Centers are fully open without appointments

- It was asked for that MOED provide Center traffic numbers since fully reopening – Jason Perkins-Cohen stated that these numbers will be provided at the next Board meeting
  - YouthWorks ended in August and served almost 6,400 youth
  - 2020 YouthWorks participation as 25% higher than last year’s YouthWorks
    - 6,371 youth completed a Youth Works application
    - Everyone that completed the YouthWorks application was offered employment
    - 5,200 actually worked
  - Youth Department held the following web based projects:
    - Money Mondays – Financial Literacy
    - Wisdom Wednesdays – Various Topics
    - Bright Future Fridays – College and Career Readiness
  - It was asked is MOED plans to expand YouthWorks to a year-long program. MOED and BCPS is partnering on a work based learning program
- Health Corps
  - MOED is working with the Health Department and other partners with 300 transitional jobs
  - This project is anticipated to continue through the end of the year
- StoryTelling Campaign
  - Yariela Kerr-Donovan explained the StoryTelling Campaign and asked Board members to record a video and their story
  - Shantrice Cooper-McCoy will send the Board the link to view the current videos <https://www.baltoworkforce.com/whats-new> and the Toolkit (see the attached)
  - MOED has hired a consultant, Nancy Murphy, that is helping with this project
  - The consultant has office hours every Friday from 12-1pm to provide assistance
- **Board Updates** – Jason Perkins-Cohen and Yariela Kerr-Donovan
  - Board nominees are still awaiting approval from the Mayor’s Office
  - Economic Justice Learning opportunity is aligned with the Mayor’s economic justice lens and this is just an FYI as more information is forth coming
  - MOED will send Board Committee descriptions (see the attached)
- **Closing**
  - Board members provided updates on initiatives and activities within their various organizations.
  - The Board Chair concluded the meeting thanking everyone for attending and displaying their continued support.