



Governor's Workforce Development Board Quarterly Meeting

The Hall at Maryland Live
7002 Arundel Mills Circle, #7777
Hanover, MD 21076
September 10, 2025 - 3:00-5:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT *IP(in-person) OR V(virtual) OR V/Ph(virtual by phone)*

(IP) Delali Dzirasa (Chair)	(IP) MacKenzie Garvin	(V) Carmel Roques
(IP) Marco V. Ávila	(V) Kevin D. Heffner	(V) Marty Schwartz
(IP) John D. Barber, Jr.	(V) Matthew Holloway	(IP) Michelle B. Smith
(IP) Carol Beatty	(IP) Roderick King	(IP) Brian Stamper
(IP) Stacey Beichler	(V) Rafael Lopez	(V) Inez Stewart
(IP) Erik Bonner	(IP) Jessica Mente	(IP) Teaera Strum
(V) Donald Boyd	(IP) Kirkland Murray	(IP) Perketer Tucker
(IP) Charnetia V. Callaham	(IP) Myra Norton	(V) Charles T. Wetherington
(V) Brian Cavey	(V) Tamla Oliver	(V) Carey Wright
(V) Donna Edwards	(IP) Sanjay Rai	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Governor Wes Moore	Annesa Cheek	Stephen K. Neal
Ferris Allen, III	Harry Coker	Edward C. Rothstein
Vanessa Atterbeary	Jabob "Jake" Day	Carolyn Scruggs
Alexander Austin	Steve Groenke	Meena Seshamani
Calvin Ball	Larry Letow	Michael Thomas
Joanne C. Benson	Amie Long	Betsy Tolentino
Samantha Biddle	Paul Monteiro	Jennifer Woods
		Portia Wu

GWDB STAFF

Ashley Baldwin	Darla Henson	Rachael Parker
Shuana Davis	Justin Nalley	John Strickland
Shamara Bownes	Edrees Nawabi	Katharine Swanson-Palmer

GUESTS *

Stephanie Adibe	Ari Hicks	Alexandra Pereira
Pamela Bageant	Shelby Hill	Jason Perkins-Cohens
Christopher Barbes	Kimberly Hiner	Leslie Porter-Cabell
Kristen Bucher	Jackie Ivy	Heather Powell
Brandon Butler	Nigel Jackson	Tiffany Pryce
Nona Carroll	Kenneth Jessup	Morris Queen
M. Crane	Tiffany Joseph	Phil Rogofsky
Danielle Crosby	Kim Justus	Ashley Rzley
Peggy DallAcqua	Paul Kappel	Sarah Sheppard
Katherine DeRosear	Fahim Karim	Isabella Shycoff
Margaret Dew	Shawn Krasa	Walter Simmons
Jennifer Dewees	Tracy Kytte	Rhea Simpson-Weber
Jessica Diaz Counal	James LaBlanc	Bob Stokes
Lyn Farrow	Ellen LaFrankie	Magdalena Tagliaferro
John Feaster	Heather Lageman	Jacqueline "Tina" Turner
Anthony Featherstone	Shanon Leitner	Tracy Tyler
Stacey Ferrare	Latrice Lewis	Melanie Upright
Gabriel Fyk	Tom Liniak	Sarah VanDeweert
Lauren Gilwee	Brian Lynch	Stanley Whiteman
Leza Griffith	Meka McNeal	Erin Williams
Natasha Guynes	Seeyew Mo	Fred Williams
Karen Hamilton	Raymond Newby	V/Ph 1-443-**33
Joclyn Harris	Tanisha Nixon	V/Ph 1-804-**70
Sheatrel Harris	Rebecca Ondrey	V/Ph 1-443-**59
Ana Hernandez	Olannele Oni	V/Ph 1-516-**45
Jennifer Hernandez	Robert Owens	V/Ph 1-443-**82

**Please note, these are the guests for the meeting, guest attendance by phone could not be identified.*

I. WELCOME + ROLL CALL

The meeting commenced with a welcome from Chair Delali Dzirasa, who thanked attendees for joining and extended appreciation to the Maryland Workforce Association for hosting the Board's quarterly meeting at the *Raising the Bar* Conference. The Chair highlighted that the purpose of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration between state and local partners, advance planning for a statewide evaluation of the public workforce system, and explore opportunities for Maryland to leverage artificial intelligence to drive innovation and equitable workforce outcomes.

II. ROLL CALL + CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the September 10, 2025 meeting agenda and the June 11, 2025 meeting minutes was made and seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

III. LOCAL PARTNER WELCOME

Kirk Murray, President and CEO of the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation and President of the Maryland Workforce Association, welcomed the Board and acknowledged the partnership between local boards and the GWDB in implementing the State Workforce Development Plan. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to address shared challenges and to align policy and practice across Maryland's workforce system. Mr. Murray noted that the *Raising the Bar* Conference exemplified the state's collective commitment to fostering innovation, partnership, and accountability in workforce development.

IV. BLOCKER REMOVAL: STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

Chair Dzirasa and Executive Director Rachael Stephens Parker facilitated a discussion on identifying and removing barriers to effective collaboration between state agencies and local workforce boards. The conversation built on themes raised in prior meetings, including fiscal coordination, procurement processes, and communication across state and local partners. Board members engaged in small group discussions to identify specific blockers affecting implementation of the State Workforce Plan and proposed actions for resolution. The report-outs underscored the importance of greater transparency in decision-making, consistent guidance on timelines, improved data-sharing, and proactive engagement between the Board and local directors. The Executive Director shared that the GWDB will document the blockers identified and track progress on resolutions, with updates to be provided at the December 2025 meeting.

V. SCOPING AN EVALUATION OF THE WORKFORCE SYSTEM

Executive Director Parker led a discussion on the framework for conducting a statewide evaluation of Maryland's public workforce system. The effort aims to assess how effectively programs and investments are meeting employer demand, advancing equity, and improving outcomes for job seekers. Board members participated in small group discussions to refine the scope and identify the key questions that an evaluation should address. Themes included the need to measure the impact of sector strategies, assess the alignment between state and local implementation, and evaluate system efficiency and return on investment. The Board expressed support for engaging an external partner to conduct the evaluation, and staff will collaborate with the State Workforce Agency as it develops the RFI.

VI. LEVERAGING AI AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MARYLAND'S WORKFORCE

The Chair introduced a discussion on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping Maryland's future workforce. Executive Director Parker noted that AI presents both challenges and opportunities and that Maryland is well positioned to lead in preparing workers and employers for this technological shift. Small groups explored strategies for integrating AI into workforce training, building digital literacy, and

addressing potential equity impacts associated with automation. Board members discussed engaging employers to identify emerging AI-related skill needs and partnering with education and training providers to embed those competencies in curricula. The discussion concluded with agreement that the GWDB should continue to explore AI as a cross-cutting theme within sector strategies and future policy development.

VII. NEXT STEPS + ADJOURN

Chair Dzirasa thanked Board members, local partners, and staff for their contributions to the discussion and summarized that the outcomes from the small group sessions will inform the Board's December 2025 agenda and ongoing committee work. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM.