



#PuttingMarylandersBacktoWork

Benchmarks of Success for Maryland's Workforce System

WIOA Alignment Group

1:00 – 2:00 PM, April 29, 2019

DLLR

1100 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Part I: Combined Meeting of WIOA Alignment Group and Committee Leadership Teams

1:00 – 1:30 PM

Attendees: Lauren Gilwee, Erin Roth, Bryan Moore, Daiquiri Anderson, Erica Kea-Muhammad, Jen Horton, Jody Boone, Kenneth Lemberg, Kimberly Duncan, Lloyd Day, Stuart Campbell, Milena Kornyl, LiLi Taylor, Netsanet Kibret, Susan Kaliush, and Natalie Clements

Handouts:

- Agenda and
- Overview of Committee Activities

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- The WIOA Alignment Group welcomes new members from LDSS: Rick DeWitt (Garrett), Paula Erdie (Wicomico), and Courtney Thomas-Winterberg (Allegany).

II. Committee Report-Outs

A. Overview

- The Communications and Data and Dashboard Committees met in April and are tracking with their deliverables on the Global Work Plan.
- The Policy Committee is gearing up for its first meeting under new leadership.
- The Professional Development and Technical Assistance Committee is on hold, pending the on-boarding of the Chief Learning Officer.

B. Policy Committee

- The Policy Committee leadership had a planning meeting to discuss agenda items for the first meeting this year as well as plan work and priorities for 2019.

- Lauren Gilwee and Jen Horton, Chair and Co-Chair, are drafting email language to introduce themselves to the committee.
- The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20th. The committee will develop Global Work Plan items.

C. Communications Committee

- The committee finalized the design of their two-sided flyer collateral piece. The content had been previously approved by the WIOA Alignment Group. The committee will add the collateral pieces to the *Benchmarks of Success* website and distribute them electronically but will hold off on printing due to department name changes. The poster and rack card will be finalized in June and July.
- The April *Benchmarks of Success* newsletter was issued and featured the 2019 workforce development convening by DHS FIA as well as two success stories from the SNAP E&T program.
- The committee presented the *Benchmarks of Success* road show at the Baltimore County Workforce Development Board retreat.
- Partners are encouraged to give a list of their staff member names and email addresses to Susan Kaliush, so she can add them to the *Benchmarks of Success* distribution list.

D. Data and Dashboard Committee

- The Data and Dashboard Committee discussed their calculation methodology to get all committee members on the same page now that they have gone through the motions of exporting and calculating data.
- The committee worked with the Communications Committee to make their Scorecard draft data dashboard more readable to different audiences.
- The Data and Dashboard Committee will provide new benchmark numbers at the next WIOA Alignment Group meeting.

Part II: WIOA Alignment Group – Remaining Business

1:30 – 2:00 PM

Attendees: Lauren Gilwee, Erin Roth, Bryan Moore, Daiquiri Anderson, Erica Kea-Muhammad, Jen Horton, Jody Boone, Kenneth Lemberg, Kimberly Duncan, Lloyd Day, Stuart Campbell, Milena Kornyl, LiLi Taylor, Netsanet Kibret, Susan Kaliush, and Natalie Clements

Handouts:

- Agenda,
- MD THINK Project Term Sheet, and
- MD THINK Platform Application Requirements

Minutes

I. Legislative Updates

A. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

- The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation will be re-branded as the Maryland Department of Labor, effective July 1st.
- Three Registered Apprenticeship bills intersect to:
 - Create new Registered Apprenticeship grant program for law enforcement agencies;
 - Create new Registered Apprenticeship program for the reentry population (DLLR and DPSCS are also exploring prison-to-apprenticeship opportunities); and
 - Allocate funds to green industry Registered Apprenticeships through EARN Maryland.
- As an update to the 2018 legislative session, DLLR has been working with DHS and DHCD to plan implementation strategies for the Fostering Employment Act.

B. Department of Human Services

- Legislation created an allocation in the Governor's allowance for DHS to mitigate the impact of the TANF benefits cliff (~\$6.3 million). The funding will TANF clients to continue to receive benefits for three months after employment in order to transition to self-sufficiency.
- This legislation includes a Joint Chairman's Report in partnership with University of Maryland School of Social Work to track impact.
- The amount of time an individual is allowed to participate in vocation/educational activities was increased from 12 to 24 months.

C. Department of Housing and Community Development

- DHCD has a new workforce housing tax credit that is linked to the opportunity zones.

- Lauren Gilwee will connect with Stuart Campbell to discuss connection points between DLLR and DHCD.

II. System Integration Efforts

A. MD THINK

- At last month's meeting, the WIOA Alignment Group heard from DHS Deputy Secretary Greg James and Chief Technology Officer, Subramanian Muniasamy on MD THINK.
- DWDAL debriefed internally after that meeting and is interested in exploring the opportunity.
- DHS will provide budget information concerning participation in the platform.

B. UI Modernization

- Unemployment Insurance modernization started in 2012 and will be implemented for regular use this year. The new system is called Reemployment BEACON (BEACON is an acronym for BENefits, APpeals, and CONtributions, the three core pieces of Unemployment Insurance). When BEACON goes live, MABS will no longer be available.
- The new system will allow claimants to file and certify their claims each week, respond to fact-finding, and upload documentation. The system will allow staff to approve account maintenance, respond to correspondences, eliminate redundancy, make payments, detect fraud, etc.
- Vijay Iyer and Jared Murphy are reviewing Unemployment Insurance's existing MOUs and will update accordingly, so partners with access to wage data can continue to have that access. Partners with MOUs should stay tuned.

III. MOUs and RSAs

- DLLR released MOU/RSA guidance a while ago, and draft MOUs are due back from the Local Areas on May 18th. All mandatory partners must be included in the MOU.
- If Local Areas are having trouble getting in contact with partners, they should reach out to Lloyd Day.

IV. Local Plans Update

- State partners are reviewing Local Plans in batches as they come in and have received 11 out of the 12 plans.
- The WIOA Alignment Group thanks everyone that is participating in the review process.

V. WIOA State Plan

- DLLR received an email from their federal partners that the next submission of the State Workforce Plan is coming up. The plan will be due in March 2020. There will be a new federal submission portal.

- Lauren Gilwee will be taking the lead. The DWDAL policy team will be reaching out soon for updates. Partners should stay tuned.

VI. Chief Learning Officer Position Update

- DWDAL is reclassifying a pin for the Chief Learning Officer position. The employee will report to Erin Roth in the DWDAL Office of the Assistant Secretary.
- DWDAL has submitted the Hiring Freeze Exemption and will post the position once the exemption is approved.
- DWDAL will fund the position for the first year, and then the cost will be shared with partners.
- Partners interested in participating on the interview panel should contact Erin Roth by May 6th.

VII. Good of the Order

- Lauren Gilwee: The Raising the Bar conference will be September 17-19th at Turf Valley. The first day is the pre-conference, and the last two are the regular conference.
- Bryan Moore: This Friday is the IAWP Maryland Chapter event.
- The WIOA Alignment Group will have their next meeting in person. Minutes from the March and April meetings will be printed and provided at the meeting.