



WIOA Alignment Group Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Call-in #: (US) +1 405-353-0959/ Access Code: 145 416 707#

Google Hangouts Link: meet.google.com/yf-yhvn-taa

Part 1: Combined Meeting of WIOA Alignment Group and Committee Leadership Teams

I. Welcome and Introductions

Lauren Gilwee

- Tiara Booker Dwyer retired
 - Dr. Nicassia Belton MSDE will be joining the WIOA alignment group in her place
 - Dr. Katherine Stewart will serve as proxy for some meetings
- Natalie Clements left her full time position about a month ago (previously led the committee overview portion and sat on the policy committee)
 - Policy Analyst position is posted

II. Committee Report Outs

- Overview *Dylan McDonough*
- Communications Committee *Susan Kaliush, Kimberlee Schulz, & LiLi Taylor*
 - Committee shared three handouts - 2 newsletter reports and one bulletin detail report
 - There was a 33% open rate for the newsletter
 - There was a 15% open rate for February (focuses on EARN Maryland)
- Data and Dashboard Committee *Douglas Weimer, Milena Kornyl, & Dylan McDonough*
 - Committee met on Feb. 15
 - 2 new members (Staff members from Workforce Development Quality Initiative Grant)
 - Committee Co-Chair Doug Weimer provided update on the WDQI Grant
 - Co-Chair Doug Weimer shared the quarterly data report to be shared with the Governor's Workforce Development Board for approval
 - It was noted that COVID has heavily impacted enrollment but in December enrollment has plateaued or increased, a change from the regular decreases in enrollment up to this point
 - Alignment Group approved the report
 - Co-Chair Doug Weimer stated that the Committee was open to feedback on ways that they could/should be involved in more detailed data reporting moving forward and asked for input from the Alignment Group

- The Alignment Group discussed issues relating to the benchmarks of success, general data reporting/collection information sharing, and possible collaboration with the Policy Committee for data recommendations.

- Policy Committee

Lauren Gilwee & Tina Turner

- Co-Chair Lauren Gilwee noted that Natalie Clements, the previous policy committee coordinator, left her full time role at Labor and that they are currently hiring for her position.
- The Policy committee draft report will be prepared to bring to the meeting next month
- Co-Chair Lauren Gilwee mentioned that the committee would like to see the WIOA Alignment Group come up with a broad measurable skills gain policy
 - The Policy Committee and Data and Dashboard Committee will work together on this issue.

- Professional Development and Technical Assistance

John Feaster, Jeana Davis, & Lakisha Hill

- The Committee met on February 16th
- Committee co-chair John Feaster shared the release dates of past and future modules
 - Module 5 on Title II was released on Nov 2nd
 - Module 6 on Title III was released on Feb 22nd
 - Plan to release module 7 on Title IV (DORS) in April 2022
- Alignment Group discussed strategies for increasing the completion percentage for the trainings

III. Next Steps and Action Items

Dylan McDonough

Part 2: WIOA Alignment Group – Remaining Business

I. Local Plans Update

Dylan McDonough & Ken Lemberg

- All Local Plans have been approved, submitted, and uploaded onto MD Labor’s website

II. National Association of State Workforce Boards (Conference)

Walter Simmons

- Annual forum April 11-14. Registration is currently open
- Alignment Group member Walter Simmons discussed the conference, including USDOL’s role and topics that will be discussed
- In-person only at the Washington Hilton in DC
- https://forum.nawb.org/?_ga=2.63157037.381101024.1646074539-1512039328.1634314094

III. State Plan Update

Lauren Gilwee

- SNAP E&T
 - 7 additional SNAP E&T prompts in the portal that were not in the federal guidance.
 - DHS will update when they believe they will have the changes completed.
- SCSEP
 - New data point that USDOL is asking for. This has been remedied.
- VETS
 - USDOL changed guidance, but it’s being worked on internally

IV. Kirwan and CTE Updates

Mike DiGiacomo/Nicassia Belton

- Alignment Group member Mike DiGiacomo discussed the status of Kirwan and CTE, including the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and the CTE Committee.
 - It was noted that there is legislation to shift timelines related to the AIB and CTE.
 - HB 1450: AIB timelines moving 6 months out. CTE Committee reports being moved into March 2023
- Update was provided on the Governor's Supplemental Budget
 - Funded a number of the previously unfunded pieces of the Kirwan legislation, including funds to pay for salaries for individuals on the GWDB to support the CTE committee. Money would be available July 1 if approved.
 - <https://mdctedata.org/>

V. Workforce Grants

Erin Roth

- Alignment Group member Erin Roth provided updates on workforce related grants
 - MD Labor applied to the Good Jobs Challenge
 - Submitted application to support the emerging Offshore Wind Industry
 - 20 sub-awards would be a part of the grant
 - If awarded, projects expected to start "summer of 2022"
 - If not awarded, still want to brainstorm ways to support the growth of this industry in the state
 - RFP Posted for EARN Maryland
 - Active solicitations out now with Labor
 - RFP Posted for the Workforce Solutions to Address Homelessness program
 - Launched last week, accepting proposals through June 17
 - Pre Proposal conference March 2
 - Making awards in September

VI. 2022 Legislative Session

All

- Labor has 2 bills, DWDAL has 1
 - DWDAL has a bill to re-authorize DWDAL as the State Apprenticeship Agency.
- SB 518 career pathways for healthcare workers. \$1 million investment for workforce training at community colleges and HBCUs for health care job training
- MD Labor had Senate budget hearing. The House budget hearing is March 2
- Alignment Group discussed themes that have been noticed in legislation, including supporting returning citizens, augmenting the health care workforce, data oriented initiatives, and tax credits

VII. Organization Check-Ins (COVID-19)

All

- As of tomorrow, MSDE has no mask mandate in offices
- Only one AJC in Frederick is not open to the public
- Correctional Ed Teachers and principals returned to classrooms on 2/14. Reentry navigators were able to re-enter as of the beginning of last week

VIII. Good of the Order

All

Next Meeting: Monday, March 28, 2022