



#PuttingMarylandersBacktoWork

Benchmarks of Success for Maryland's Workforce System

WIOA Alignment Group

1:00 – 4:00 PM, July 29, 2019

Labor, 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, Augustin Ntabaganyimana, Brittney Crisafulli, Douglas Weimer, Erica Kea-Muhammad, Erin Roth, Grace Kelly, James Rzepkowski, Jody Boone, Kenneth Lemberg, Kimberly Duncan, LiLi Taylor, Linda Webb, Lloyd Day, Michael DiGiacomo, Milena Kornyl, Scott Dennis, Susan Kaliush, Terry Gilleland, Jacqueline "Tina" Turner, and Natalie Clements

Handouts:

- Agenda and
- Overview of Committee Activities

Minutes

I. Committee Report-Outs

A. Overview

- All three committees held meetings in July and reported that they are tracking with their planned activities and goals from the Global Work Plan.
- Representatives from the Data and Dashboard Committee attended and presented at the Policy Committee's monthly meeting to share information on their progress and challenges.
- Due to summer schedules, the Communications Committee decided to release a single issue of the newsletter to cover both months of July and August.
- The Professional Development and Technical Assistance Committee is on hiatus, pending the onboarding of the Chief Learning Officer.

B. Policy Committee

- The Policy Committee focuses on one major topic to make recommendations on and one smaller topic for information sharing in each meeting.

- Their July meeting focused on the benefits cliff with a presentation from Carrie Durham, Director of the Office of Policy and Training at DHS, on the Transitional Support Services initiative. One of the big discussion points was the need for financial education and how partnerships with AJCs could help address that need.
- Douglas Weimer represented the Data and Dashboard Committee at the Policy Committee's July meeting and shared his committee's progress and long term recommendations.

C. Communications Committee

- The Communications Committee completed their flyer, which is now available on the Labor website. They distributed the document electronically and will discuss printing strategies and physical distribution at their next meeting.
- The Communications Committee will update the Maryland Workforce System logo with the new Labor logo.
- This month's newsletter marks a whole year of *Benchmarks of Success* newsletters. The Communications Committee has about 2,000 people on their distribution list. The next newsletter is scheduled to come out on Tuesday. The Communications Committee will emphasize the Labor name change in their next newsletter.
- Kenneth Lemberg is coordinating with the Local Boards to present the *Benchmarks of Success* roadshow. The presentations generally align with the Local Boards' quarterly meeting schedules. There are opportunities to collaborate with other committees in their presentations. The Data and Dashboard Committee is willing to co-present or send talking points for audiences interested in the data piece.

D. Data and Dashboard Committee

- The Data and Dashboard Committee will start getting preliminary data for Program Year 2018 in August and September. They used this month's meeting to tackle a request from the Assistant Attorneys General. The Committee worked through the calculation methodology and identified all data fields and their relevant data system used for *Benchmarks of Success* reporting at this time. This work is to aid in the data sharing agreement work. The committee has compiled the information and is standardizing the format before submission.
- The data field documentation contributes to data-sharing work on the aggregate level. The Data and Dashboard Committee recommends that the WIOA Alignment Group pursue participant-level data sharing.
- Douglas Weimer, Chair of the Data and Dashboard Committee, presented the committee's long term recommendations at the Policy Committee's monthly meeting. The Data and Dashboard Committee is more than happy to collaborate with the Communications or other committees to aid in data information sharing. The committee can share information that has already been shown to the WIOA Alignment Group and Executive Steering Committee. There has been an expressed interest from Local Areas to learn more about the calculation methodology and process.
- Once the Data and Dashboard Committee has two years of *Benchmarks of Success* data, then they can establish baselines and make recommendations for targets.

Part II: WIOA Alignment Group – Remaining Business

1:30 – 2:00 PM

Attendees: Lauren Gilwee, Augustin Ntabaganyimana, Erica Kea-Muhammad, Erin Roth, Grace Kelly, James Rzepkowski, Jody Boone, Kenneth Lemberg, Kimberly Duncan, Linda Webb, Lloyd Day, Michael DiGiacomo, Milena Kornyl, Scott Dennis, Terry Gilleland, Jacqueline “Tina” Turner, and Natalie Clements

Handouts:

- Agenda and
- SNAP/FSET 3rd Party Partners FFY19

Minutes

I. Raising the Bar

- The Raising the Bar proposal review has decided on the majority of the proposals but is still finalizing the agenda.
- The WIOA Alignment Group will collaborate with the committee leadership to present on the *Benchmarks of Success* and implementation at Raising the Bar.
- Raising the Bar is interested in engaging Labor’s new Secretary, Tiffany Robinson.
- There will be a podcast booth at the conference. State agencies will each decide how they want to approach this opportunity and will share their communication policies with their staff, e.g. obtain pre-approval for participating.
- The GWDB will hold their quarterly meeting at the MDOT headquarters; however, the Executive Steering Committee meeting will be rescheduled due to the conference.

II. Local Plan Updates

- Maryland has received all 12 Local Plans and has sent back comments on 11 of them. The review team is meeting next week to discuss the last plan.
- After sending comments, the state is now receiving revised plans from the Local Areas and reviewing them as they come in.
- The Local Plans have been an educational process for all. The Policy Committee contributed to the revised guidance for this round and will reflect on what did and did not work in this process for next time.

III. MOUs and RSAs

- MOUs and RSAs are at various stages on a spectrum from extensions, approvals, waiting on final signatures, and are final approved.

IV. Data Sharing Agreements

- Erin Roth met with the Data and Dashboard Committee leadership and the DWDAL Assistant Attorney General to discuss what they needed from the committee to move forward with data sharing agreements.
- There are two levels of agreements being considered, aggregate for *Benchmarks of Success* reporting and individual for customer service.
- DHS has a new Assistant Attorney General.

V. SNAP E&T Updates

- Federal funding is changing priorities from solely food assistance to addressing root causes of poverty. DHS is amplifying workforce wellness strategies with federal priorities.
- Maryland expects to see the SNAP E&T program continue to grow and is exploring how the program does and should fit into the larger workforce system. This may have implications for the next State Workforce Plan under WIOA.
- DHS worked with the University of Maryland to conduct data analytics to understand who the TANF population is. A similar analysis should be done on the SNAP population.
- DHS asks the other partner agencies to consider how they serve the SNAP population.
- The program experiences challenges with the federal reimbursement mechanism, which requires nonprofit partners to contribute to the cash match. DHS is in discussion with foundations to make SNAP a funding priority. DHS provided a list of the partners that already contributing to the match.

VI. Chief Learning Officer

- The Global Work Plan has the onboarding of the Chief Learning Officer set in August 2019. The WIOA Alignment Group has closed recruitment for the position and will begin interviews soon.

VII. Good of the Order

- Augustin Ntabaganyimana: He attended the NGA conference on the on-demand economy and opportunities to engage that population in the workforce system.
- Erin Roth: The Labor Office of Correctional Education and DPSCS have been meeting to explore ways to enhance services for the reentry population.
- James Rzepkowski: The new Labor Secretary, Tiffany Robinson, starts on July 31st.