

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2022 3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**



**VIRTUAL - GOOGLE MEETS CALL**

**JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: [meet.google.com/ehj-svvg-mob](https://meet.google.com/ehj-svvg-mob)**

**JOIN BY PHONE: 1-346-800-2631 PIN: 679 015 693#**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Louis Dubin (Chair)	Katarina Ennerfelt	Charles Ramos
Chris Sachse (Vice Chair)	Wanda Smith Gispert	Anton P. Reusing, V
A. Ferris Allen, III	Steve Groenke	Edward C. Rothstein, Col. Ret.
Marco V. Ávila	Kevin D. Heffner	Marty Schwartz
John D. Barber, Jr.	Stacey Herman	William E. Simons
Alice Blayne-Allard	W. Marshall Knight, II	Michelle B. Smith
Gary Bockrath	Sandra Kurtinitis	Teaera Strum
Jennifer Bodensiek	Larry Letow	Michael Thomas
Brian Cavey	Carl Livesay	Perketer Tucker
Michelle Day	Linda Moss	Charles T. Wetherington
Scott Dennis	Stephen K. Neal	Michelle J. Wright
Judi Emmel	Myra Norton	Charnetia V. Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sam Abed	James D. Fielder	George W. Owings, III
Mick Arnold	R. Mike Gill	Lourdes R. Padilla
Vanessa Atterbearly	Robert L. Green	Tiffany P. Robinson
Carol Beatty	Matthew Holloway	Lisa Rusyniak
Joanne C. Benson	Rona E. Kramer	Gerald "Jerry" Shapiro
Gavin Buckley	Amie Long	Leslie R. Simmons
Andrea Chapdelaine	Deborea Montgomery	
Mohammad Choudhury	Rodney Oddoye	

**GWDB STAFF**

Mike DiGiacomo	Darla Henson	Dontaz Winston
Allie Carter	Ken Lemberg	

**GUESTS \***

Chris Abell	Yolanda Cullin	Kenneth Jessup
Jane Beilenson	Logan Dean	Kimberly Justus
Molly Bermudez	Mark Drury	Prasad Karunakaran
Chauncy, B	John Feaster	Mike Kelleher
Dr. Deann Collins	Rishan Habte	Todd Marks
Susan Considine	David Harper	Dan McDermott
Kevin Craft	Emily Mariel Hope	Dylan McDonough

Meka McNeal	Erin Roth	1-301-**05
Kimberly Mentzell	James Rzepkowski	1-443-**88
Denise Nooe	Daniel Schneckenburger	1-202-**83
Augustin Ntabaganyimana	Max Shuftan	1-240-**11
Queen Nwafor	Casey Tiefenwerth	1-410-**60
John Papagni	Fran Trout	1-607-**68
Jordan Peirce	Sarah Van De Weert	Unknown
Ed Roberts	Doug Weimer	
Phil Rogofsky	Joana Winningham	

*\*Please note that these guests RSVP'd for the Google Meets call, but roll call was only taken for board members, so guest attendance could not be confirmed.*

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OPENING REMARKS:**

The meeting started officially at 3:30, December 7, 2022, via Google Meets platform. Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Executive Director Mike DiGiacomo opened the meeting and then introduced Chairman Louis Dubin and Vice Chair Chris Sachse. Chairman Dubin observed that there were still challenges in finding human resources. The Construction industry still has labor shortages, and labor costs have accelerated in this unique, unsettling time. Vice Chair Sachse indicated there was still strong hiring for the many open technology and cybersecurity jobs and that we need to get people ready for those jobs. He thanked everyone for being at today's meeting.

Chairman Dubin communicated that there were no new members, but the Board now had a full 59 members. He asked for updates from Board members.

GWDB member Ed Rothstein indicated that there were meetings with the Carroll County Board of Education and with the state delegation regarding unknowns in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the question of how we identify labor needs. Community colleges and trade schools are involved in discussions. Mr. DiGiacomo communicated that the CTE Committee will have to consider how to track and manage that situation, and the Committee's CTE Plan will be due 3/15/23.

GWDB member Marty Schwartz articulated that his virtual reality training product for auto mechanics is about ready to go. Interested parties are in Carroll County, Anne Arundel County Juvenile Services, and via the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. He can make a demo for people to try. He sees CTE training being delivered by virtual reality within the next five years.

GWDB member Stacey Herman announced that the Neurodiversity at Workplace Conference will be March 22 to 24 in DC. Efforts involve inclusion at work. There is a challenge in hiring Direct Support and Direct Care professionals.

Chris Abell indicated that there was economic development and attraction of businesses with cybersecurity apprenticeship efforts in Carroll County that he could connect to Ed Rothstein's efforts.

GWDB member Katarina Ennerfelt communicated that the International Partnership Forum would be held in Baltimore in March 2023, with an emphasis on the Offshore Wind industry.

Chairman Dubin asked to approve the last meeting's minutes, and September 2022 minutes were approved.

Mr. DiGiacomo communicated GWDB meeting dates in 2023. There were some staffing updates, particularly bringing on new CTE Program Manager Allie Carter and new youth apprentice Dontez Winston. They each briefly introduced themselves. To assist the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee, an agreement has been signed between the Jacob Frances Institute and the Urban Institute with Bob Lerman, who will be reaching out to CTE members and community partners. There will be a public meeting with the CTE Committee on 12/13/22, from 11:00 to 12:30.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. DiGiacomo turned the meeting over to Maryland Department of Labor Deputy Assistant Secretary Erin Roth who spoke to the group. She spoke about State, Regional, and Local plans. Updates in the State plan included Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) as a partner. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future was included as an update, and Perkins is being considered for addition into the Plan group. There are five Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regions within the state, with their updated/enhanced strategic plans to be submitted to the state by 2/1/23. The GWDB approves the plans. Local plans will be submitted by 5/1/23 that are updates with data helping fill in gaps. The GWDB is expected to review and approve the plans over the summer. Mr. DiGiacomo encouraged board members to engage with the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning and reach back out to Deputy Assistant Secretary Roth.

Mr. DiGiacomo next introduced GWDB member Marco Ávila to the group to speak about his accomplishments and community opportunities, including with the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ávila has operated locally, nationally, and globally. He is a civil engineer and project manager in his full-time work with WSP, working on mega infrastructure projects. Three years ago he took over the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and has developed it into a now vibrant organization. The organization provides mentoring, networking, and education. The chamber held an energy summit in Baltimore recently. There are monthly Business Advisory Membership (BAM) program sessions. The chamber organized a scholarship program for Hispanic students. Mr. Ávila has been responsible for Engineers Week for students, which keeps growing every year. There has been a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), to go along with Engineering, and the addition of a Maritime Day. The next Engineering Week, in February 2023, will add in a Cybersecurity Day and eventually add in a Manufacturing Day. Mr. Ávila is also the co-founder and CEO of the Healing Hands Foundation, which operates globally, and provides free surgery for children with birth defects/disabilities/injuries. His employer, WSP, has an active apprenticeship/internship type program, with competitive selection from college students. There is a corporate focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in each office. Mr. Ávila is also part of a group where CEOs get together and of Golfers for Charity (which helps fund various programs in the community).

Mr. DiGiacomo turned the meeting back over to Chairman Dubin, who called for a motion to adjourn.  
The meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Submitted by

Ken Lemberg