

**Meeting Minutes**  
**MARCH 18, 2020 3:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**  
**TELECONFERENCE CALL (DUE TO CORONAVIRUS)**



**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Louis Dubin (Chair)  
Chris Sachse (Vice Chair)  
Mick Arnold  
John D. Barber, Jr.  
Carol Beatty  
Gary Bockrath  
Jennifer Bodensiek  
Gavin Buckley  
Andrea Chapdelaine  
Veronica A. Cool  
Michelle Day  
Katarina Ennerfelt  
James D. Fielder  
Wanda Smith Gispert  
Robert L. Green  
Steve Groenke  
Kevin D. Heffner  
Andrew B. Larson  
Larry Letow  
Carl Livesay  
Amie Long  
Roya Mohadjer  
Gary Murdock  
Chad Nagel  
Stephen K. Neal  
Alexander Núñez  
Lourdes R. Padilla  
Charles Ramos  
Tiffany P. Robinson  
Edward C. Rothstein, Col Ret  
Kelly M. Schulz  
Marty Schwartz  
James A. Sears  
Leslie R. Simmons  
William E. Simons

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sam Abed  
Vanessa Atterbeary  
Alice Blayne-Allard  
Cheryl Kagan  
Rona E. Kramer  
Sandra Kurtinitis  
George W. Owings, III  
Lisa Rusyniak  
Karen Salmon  
Gerald "Jerry" Shapiro

**GWDB STAFF**

Mike DiGiacomo  
Darla Henson  
Ken Lemberg  
Molly Mesnard

**GUESTS \***

Charlotten Ahearn  
Linda Armstrong  
Perrice Austin  
Bob Aydukovic  
Rich Cerkovnik  
Natalie Clements  
Gary Cohen  
Ruthy Davis  
Lloyd Day  
Scott Dennis  
Judith Emmel  
John Feaster  
Bryan Goehring  
Deborah Gilbert  
Lauren Gilwee  
Mansur Hasib  
Leonard Howie  
Heather Lageman  
Caryn Lasser  
Rich Lucas  
Brian Lynch  
Kent Malwitz  
Mary Manzoni  
Teresa Mena  
Steve Morrill  
Denise Nooe  
Mark Nardone  
Andi Overton  
Anna-Maria Palmer  
Darlene Peregory  
Janice Pete-Bey  
Amy Petkovsek  
Ed Roberts  
Phil Rogofsky  
James Rzepkowski

Michelle B. Smith  
Charles T. Wetherington  
Michelle J. Wright  
Charnetia V. Young

Jeff Samuels  
Sarah Sheppard  
Bruce Spector  
Steve Spector  
LaRoy Thomas  
Danielle Troiano  
Rachel Wooden

\*Please note that these guests had RSVP'd for the teleconference 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 PM, March 18, 2020, via teleconference call. Chairman Louis Dubin provided welcome and opening remarks. He noted the unprecedented times with respect to coronavirus and extra precautions being taken – hence the board was meeting quarterly via teleconference in a reduced time format. The meeting call was being recorded, and any questions could be directed via email to staff at [DLGWDB-LABOR@maryland.gov](mailto:DLGWDB-LABOR@maryland.gov). Board members were instructed to stay on the call until the end, because important motions (approval of last meeting's minutes and approval of the draft WIOA State Plan) needed to be made and approved, along with a roll call of votes of everyone present. Chairman Dubin then turned the meeting over to Labor Secretary Tiffany Robinson.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Secretary Robinson communicated that the State of Maryland and the Department of Labor were focused on how to mitigate the coronavirus's impact on health, jobs, businesses, and everyday lives, including helping the state's workforce and business community navigate through these uncertain times. She indicated that several state agencies had partnered to launch a new coronavirus business resources page on Maryland Business Express, located at: [businesssexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus](http://businesssexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus). There is an FAQ page being updated almost hourly as questions came in from the public. The Secretary thanked all her colleagues, especially Secretary Kelly Schulz at Commerce, for ensuring the most up-to-date information was available for our businesses and employers.

Secretary Robinson said that the Governor announced via Executive Order that all licensing, permit, and registration deadlines had been extended to 30 days past the end of the State of Emergency, greatly helping our Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, to help alleviate stress for departmental employees and for people practicing their trades.

Secretary Robinson articulated efforts to increase flexibility in awarding unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Workers laid off through no fault of their own would generally be eligible for UI, and there was discussion of a federal declaration of emergency, where an additional 13 to 20 weeks of UI would be made available beyond the already required 26 weeks of benefits.

With regard to legislative updates, the General Assembly agreed to adjourn that day, Wednesday, March 18, at 3:00 PM. COVID-19 emergency bills passed the House and Senate and immediately became law. The Kirwan bill passed the Senate, after adding 11 amendments, and was to go to the Governor for signature – the Governor could sign it into law, let it go into effect without signature, or veto it. There is a part of the bill that involves the GWDB becoming involved in a Career and Technology Education (CTE) framework, with a group overseen by the GWDB. Authorizing language allows for \$300,000 for a CTE workgroup. Secretary Robinson and her team would provide a full update at a later date. The Pimlico/Laurel bill had also passed.

Secretary Fielder indicated that the Promise bill had passed the Assembly with amendments. Also a bill for Historically Black Colleges and Universities had passed, triggering funding for 10 years.

Secretary Robinson introduced a new GWDB board member, Leslie Simmons, Executive Vice President of LifeBridge Health organization. Ms. Simmons was invited to say a few words about herself and the health care situation. She was pleased to be a new member on the Board and felt that her life was an ongoing conference call. Ms. Simmons has a nursing background, being utilized in serving patients and standing up testing centers. There was contingency planning underway and standing up of a COVID-19 hospital. The Governor’s emergency orders were helpful. “It takes a village,” and she was grateful for the variety of partners assisting.

Chairman Dubin next reminded board members to reference the written announcements emailed with the meeting materials. Some of the future events into late April obviously may need to be cancelled, so if further interested, just follow up with the GWDB staff and they will keep board members posted. A Baltimore County youth event scheduled for late April has been cancelled. There was a reminder for everyone to complete the census.

Chairman Dubin indicated that there has been work with the Maryland Department of Labor on several data reports to share, but those would not be covered during this abbreviated meeting – they will be presented at the next board meeting.

#### **MOTIONS:**

Chairman Dubin asked for a motion to approve the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Next, the meeting was turned over to Lauren Gilwee, Director of Policy for the Labor Department Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, to take board members through a cross-walk comparison of the new proposed WIOA State Plan compared to the last version, with oversight by the WIOA Alignment Group. In short, there were a limited number of substantive modifications since 2018, when there was an interim version, which included: updating language on the Benchmarks of Success Initiative; updated figures for expansion of registered and youth apprenticeship; data collection, including moving forward with MD Think; investment in career pathways, connecting Title I and II participants; state response to the Opioid epidemic, with federal grants; community college partners; Reentry Navigators for assisting Returning Citizens; tablets in correctional facilities; application of two new waivers, discussed in detail by Secretary Robinson at a previous meeting; and Title III, Wagner-

Peyser staff serving flexibility, where local areas or vendors can serve. The State Plan was to be submitted via portal on April 1.

Chairman Dubin asked for a motion to approve the 2020 WIOA State Plan. A motion was made and then seconded by Secretary Padilla. The State Plan was approved.

**VOTE:**

There was then a roll call conducted of board members present and whether they affirmatively voted yes on the December meeting minutes and on the 2020 WIOA State Plan. GWDB Executive Director Michael DiGiacomo conducted a roll call of board members present. Members still on the call voted in the affirmative on both the minutes and on the state plan, further confirming a quorum of board members present.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Dubin then asked for a motion to adjourn. This motion was made and seconded by Secretary Green. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2020.

Submitted by:

Ken Lemberg