

**Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board
Communications & Outreach Committee Meeting**

February 11, 2010

Meeting Notes

Division of Workforce Services Updates

The contract for operation of the one-stop centers and service to adults and dislocated [workers expires June 30, 2012. Staff is in process of developing RFP now. It will be a topic at the February 16, 2011 WIB meeting. Members of Communications and Outreach Committee are asked to think about how strategic plan and the communications plan developed by the Committee should be part of the One-Stop Operator RFP.

WIA Reauthorization and Appropriations. The committee received an update on two issues affecting job training programs in Congress – reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and the FY 11 Appropriations process. It was decided that Communications and Outreach would develop letters on these two topics with appropriations being the first, based on points developed by staff (see attached).

Green Initiatives. Staff provided an explanation of the green initiatives. Marketing material will be distributed at the WIB meeting.

Awards Breakfast development review. The committee agreed that no breakfast should be held until the regularly scheduled time in the fall, 2011 but that the decision to hold the breakfast should be re-visited in the April meeting after the County Executive has introduced its budget. The committee also said that the breakfast and other outreach activities should be considered in light of the activities around the strategic plan

Strategic Plan. As the committee reviewed the strategic plan, several ideas emerged

- Partner with schools around career awareness by participating in Career Days and making students aware of our services
- Start with general awareness first Then move to sector and company specific activities
- Branding to come later
- Continue letters to the Gazette from Lori Golino

Schedule for future meetings

- April 8, 2011 – 2:00 pm

Appropriations Issue

While the President released his FY 12 budget this week, Congress has not yet passed a FY 11 budget. The federal government is operating under continuing resolutions, the latest of which expires on March 4th. Instead of passing another continuing resolution with programs maintaining current operating levels, the House Appropriations Chair proposed reducing overall spending in the Continuing Resolution (CR). This included \$2 billion in unspecified job training reductions. Other House members are arguing for even deeper cuts in the continuing resolution which would also impact job training programs.

A few points:

- ❑ A \$2 billion cut to workforce programs, regardless of how it is crafted, would absolutely devastate the workforce system helping both employers and workers recover from this recession.
- ❑ Nationally, 8 million were served last program year and over 4.3 million placed in jobs.
- ❑ In Montgomery County, some 14,000 used Montgomery Works One-Stop Career Centers.
- ❑ Over 7200 participated in our workshops, and we provided occupational training to 257 individuals. 104 placed in jobs through occupational training programs.
- ❑ In FY 2010, MontgomeryWorks organized or participated in **six** job fairs with more than **123** employers and **30** recruitments for **16** employers, including the successful Home Depot for two of its stores which resulted in jobs for almost 200 people. Total number of individuals who attended job fairs and recruitments was **8640** (recruitments were **1390** of the total). Some **474** jobs offers were made because of these recruitments and job fairs.
- ❑ We are part of job creation effort - private sector led workforce boards are working in partnership with local employers to prepare workers for new and existing jobs in their local economies.
- ❑ The middle of the recession is the wrong time to cut funding for job training programs putting people back to work.