



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Youth Committee

Thursday, March 3, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

GoToMeeting: <https://www.gotomeet.me/MaricopaCountyWDB>

Phone: +1 (872) 240-3212; Access Code/Meeting ID: 167-097-701

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**Members Present:** Erik Cole, Jason Walker, and Sherie Steele  
(Note: All members present attended via GoTo meeting)

**Members Absent:** Marcia Veidmark, Stan Chavira, and Tina Drews

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MEETING

**Call to Order.**

Chairman Erik Cole, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., and requested roll call.

**Roll Call.**

MCWDB Board Liaison, Deseret Romero took roll. A quorum was not present.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks.**

Chairman Cole welcomed everyone to the Youth Committee meeting and introduced new Youth Committee member Sherie Steele. Ms. Steele briefly shared her professional background and experience.

**Consent Agenda.**

Due to lack of quorum Chairman Cole deferred the Consent agenda to when a quorum was established. No quorum was established.

**Chairman Report.**

Chairman Cole summarized the recent discussions by the Youth Committee and Full Board with the follow focuses.

- Marketing and Outreach
- Community Stakeholder Participation

**Informational/Discussion/Possible Action.**

**Strategic Plan Recommendation**

- i. Identify Youth Committee Goals and Priorities
- ii. Bridging the Youth Gaps (partners/stakeholders' collaboration)
- iii. College/WIOA Youth Program Peer Mentorship and/or Involvement
- iv. Early Awareness of Career Pathways (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Chairman Cole summarized the four outlined strategic plan recommendations were discussed and identified at the previous Youth Committee meeting.

Committee Member Jason Walker concurred with Chairman Cole that the list captured the conversation.

Chairman Cole inquired if a motion was necessary to move the item forward.

MCWDB Executive Director Steve Clark noted that a motion was not necessary, that Chairman Cole could share the Youth Committee's recommendations at the next Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Clark also thanked the Workforce Development Division for their great work and to work on providing them innovation ideas.

### Informational/Discussion Only.

Youth Challenges (Youth Guest) (Note: Item heard out of order.)

As a participant of the Maricopa County Workforce Youth program, Serena Martinez shared her touching story and experience with the Maricopa County Workforce Youth group, including financial assistance and GED assistance.

Chairman Cole thanked Ms. Martinez for sharing her story and complimented her on her hard work.

MCWDB Full Board Chairman Matt McGuire thanked Ms. Martinez and inquired as to her future plans and how we can help her.

Ms. Martinez noted the importance of supporting her family being an example to her younger siblings. Ms. Martinez also stated that she could not think of any immediate support need but would reach out if she needed it.

Chairman Cole asked Ms. Martinez if she shares her experience at ARIZONA@WORK with others. She noted that she does regularly.

### Youth Services Initiatives

Youth Program Manager Tina Luke provided a presentation on the new Youth Services Initiatives. Below are the highlights of Ms. Luke's presentation.

- 8 Upcoming Youth Services contracts and their specific focus areas
- 2 Co-Location Opportunities
- Title II Partner Programs/Services

The Committee asked the following questions.

- What are the main referral pathways for youth to engage in services?
  - Word of mouth being the most prominent, followed by training providers and community agencies.
- How do we not lose kids due to the disengagement of the pandemic?
  - Work closely with training providers and be flexible as some do not work best virtually.
- How can we work to fill the in-demand positions?
  - The pre-apprenticeship programs would likely assist with developing a career pathway and provide an income while they learn.

Chairman Cole recognized the importance of the pre-apprenticeship opportunities and would include in the Youth Committee discussions.

### Education and Careers Working Group

MCWDB Executive Director Steve Clark provided the Committee with a recommendation for an education and careers working group for discussion. Due to the restrictions of the bylaws related to the Youth Committee, the working group could be an extension of the Youth Committee designed to identify effective changes, to fill the gaps and awareness of career pathways. In addition, the working group would report to the Youth Committee and provide for an opportunity to bring stakeholders into the fold, as previously discussed by the Youth Committee. (Post-secondary, Community Colleges, private schools, K-12 Districts, etc.) Would like to receive feedback prior to submitting to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Chairman Cole noted his support of the concept and providing the opportunity to engage with stakeholders.

Committee Member Jason Walker agreed that it would be helpful to hear from those with experience navigating the systems.

Mr. Clark also noted the importance of including the support of the Workforce Development Division.

Mr. Clark also noted that he would prepare a formal report and feedback from leadership for possible implementation in Fiscal Year 23.

Chairman Cole asked the Committee and Mr. Clark to start thinking of potential participants to the working group.

**Call to the Public.**

Chairman Cole made a call for public comment. MCWDB Full Board Member Leah Hill complimented the Youth Committee on their inclusion of the holistic perspective into the workforce plan. Ms. Hill noted the employer movement of including this into their businesses.

**Adjourn.**

Chairman Cole adjourned the MCWDB meeting at 10:27 a.m.

*\*For additional information, contact MCWDB staff at: [MCWDB@maricopa.gov](mailto:MCWDB@maricopa.gov)*