



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

Thursday, September 2, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

GoToMeeting: <https://www.gotomeet.me/MaricopaCountyWDB>
Phone: +1 (872) 240-3212; Access Code/Meeting ID: 167-097-701

Members Present: Erik Cole, Jason Walker and Stan Chavira
(Note: All members present attended via GoTo meeting)

Members Absent: Marcia Veidmark and Tina Drews

MEETING

Call to Order.

Chairman Erik Cole, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., and requested roll call.

Roll Call.

MCWDB Board Liaison, Deseret Romero took roll.

Welcome and Opening Remarks.

Chairman Cole welcomed the Youth Committee, guests and opened up introductions.

Chairman Report.

Chairman Cole provided his brief professional background in workforce development.

Informational/Discussion Only.

Committee Membership.

MCWDB Management Analyst Nancy Avina provided the Committee with a presentation on the Youth Committee membership set forth by the MCWDB Bylaws.

Meeting Cadence & Logistics.

MCWDB Board Liaison, Deseret Romero presented the Committee with the specific details related committee meeting schedule, calendar invitations, meeting materials, etc. Noting that the Committee preparation and process would be consistent with that of the MCWDB Full Board meetings.

Committee Communication.

Executive Director Steve Clark noted that Committee communication should be done through the MCWDB staff to ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Laws.

2021-2022 Committee Focus.

Chairman Cole opened the conversation up to the Committee on the following questions.

- i. *“If funding was not an option, what are some ideas for this committee to consider as areas of focus for FY22?”*

Committee Member Jason Walker discussed the importance of leveraging community involvement and building stakeholder relationships.

Chairman Cole concurred with Mr. Walker suggesting that the Committee invite such community leaders to the start building those relationships. Chairman Cole also suggested bringing in the Service Provider and/or similar agencies.

- ii. *“Given the labor market projections for the in-demand occupations for the next five years, what are your thoughts regarding addressing the employer needs for the Maricopa County metropolitan area?”*

Committee Member Jason Walker shared the challenges faced by youth, including:

- Identifying long-term planning (potential opportunities/what steps are needed)
- Understating jobs vs. career paths

Mr. Walker also discussed developing plans to assist with the barriers some may face and prevent them from seeing the opportunities.

Executive Director Clark commented on the necessity to modify how we communicate with youth and how to start educating them on their potential career options. Mr. Clark also noted the need to bridge the gaps between youth and adult opportunities.

Chairman Cole agreed, while adding the need consider the pandemic challenges.

- iii. *“What do you see as some of the most significant gaps between job seekers and employers, and what ideas do you have to bridge these gaps?”*

Committee Member Jason Walker discussed the need for a fluid process that would include the different title partners to assist the individual with building their career path.

Chairman Cole included the logistic challenges, such as class time and childcare options for ESL.

Action Plan for Areas of Focus.

- i. Next steps to address issues discussed in section A

Chairman Cole inquired if reports from the Service Provider could be provided that would assist with areas of focus to establish an action plan.

Executive Director Clark noted that the Service Provider would be providing regular reports starting in October to the MCWDB Full Board. Mr. Clark also noted that this program year was likely to be a planning year for the Youth Committee, which could include identifying the gaps, solutions for those gaps, developing special programs and possibly pilot programs.

Call to the Public.

Chairman Cole made a call for public comment.

Assistant Director for Workforce Development, CJ Williams introduced himself to the Committee and agreed with the comments discussed, including identifying areas of the Youth Committee’s vision in order to provide guidance to the Workforce Development Division and also identifying the gaps between youth and adults.

Adjourn.

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

**For additional information, contact MCWDB staff at: MCWDB@maricopa.gov*