



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

Thursday, September 14, 2023 – 1:30 p.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:** Joe Veres, Barbara Coakley, Brittany Holmes, Jason Walker, Jessica Putton, Jessica Rivera-Garcia, Liz Valdez, Marie Raymond, Meredith Critchfield, Nancy Stanford, and Tony Finn  
**(Note: All members present attended via GoTo meeting)**

**Members Absent:** Kathryn “Che” Collins, Tina Drews

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MEETING

**Call to Order.**

Chairman Joe Veres, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., and requested roll call.

**Roll Call.**

MCWDB Board Liaison, Deseret Romero took roll. A quorum was present.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks.**

Chairman Veres welcomed everyone to the Youth Committee meeting and hosted a moment of silence for the passing of MCWDB Full Board and Youth Committee Member Darcy Renfro. Starting off the new fiscal year and addition of a few new Youth Committee members, Chair Veres opened up introductions for Youth Committee Members and MCWDB staff.

**Consent Agenda.**

Meeting Minutes: May 11, 2023

Chairman Veres asked for a motion to approve the MCWDB Youth Committee’s consent agenda as presented. Tony Finn made a motion; Jason Walker seconded the motion.

Chairman Veres called for an all-in favor vote:

**In Favor:** Joe Veres, Barbara Coakley, Brittany Holmes, Jason Walker, Jessica Putton, Jessica Rivera-Garcia, Liz Valdez, Marie Raymond, Meredith Critchfield, Nancy Stanford, and Tony Finn

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

Motion passed.

**Chairman Report.**

Chairman Veres provided a few words of encouragement for the Committee Members, noting the importance of the Committee, the great work conducted by the Committee last year, and the opportunity to make a difference this coming year with potential action items for MCWDB Full Board consideration.

**Youth Impact Statements.**

MCWDB Youth Success Story

Workforce Development Division Youth Career Advisor Kate Dixon shared with the Committee the provided MCWDB Youth Success Story.

**Informational/Discussion Only.**

WIOA Youth Workforce Services

Workforce Development Division, Program Manager Jinkee Pacifico will provide a presentation on the WIOA Youth Workforce Services. Below are a few highlights from Ms. Pacifico’s presentation.

WIOA Youth Workforce Services

- Overview of WIOA
- Youth Workforce Sites for Services
- Youth Services Available
  - Career Advisor (Personal Plan Development Assistance/Guidance)
  - Youth Element Support (Tutoring, financial literacy, labor market information, etc...)
  - Career Pathways (Paid Work Experience, Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeships, etc...)
  - Follow Up Services (Monthly Check-Ins – Post 12 month post program exit)
- Youth Eligibility
  - In-School Youth (Ages 14-21)
  - Out of School Youth (Ages 16-24)
- Eligibility Documents
- Youth Program Snapshot (FY23 vs FY24)
- Youth Initiatives
- Collaboration

Chairman Veres thanked Ms. Pacifico for her presentation on the WIOA Youth Workforce Services. The following questions and comments were discussed.

| Question  | Response  |
|---|---|
| Is there a cost for the participating youth?  | No cost.  |
| If there is a limit to the amount of student that you can assist, is there a modular to partner with other entities to mirror your program? | The limits are ensuring that we meet the program funding percentage requirements for assisting each eligible category (in-school vs. out-of-school).  |
| How can the Committee share this program information?   | The following link was shared: <a href="#">Apply for Youth Workforce Services   Maricopa County, AZ</a>   |
| For out-of-school youth are there requirements (soft-skills training) before they are placed with employers?                                | Program Entry: Only need to meet the eligibility requirements.<br>Employer Placement: Prepare them with work readiness. Program also checks in with the employer on progress of youth. Program provides assistance/guidance to youth if needed. |
| Is the Youth Program looking for additional industry partners?  | Yes, always looking to connect with partners.   |
| Is there additional program assistance/guidance for those youth that did not receive employer placement?                                    | Yes, the program continues to work with the youth to prepare for employment.  |

Strategic Plan Goal Review/Committee Goal Discussion

MCWDB Executive Director Steve Clark provided a brief summary of the Strategic Plan Goal Review. Below are a few highlights from Mr. Clark’s presentation.

- Vision
  - Goal Categories
  - Goal Statements
  - Goal Strategies
- MCWDB Vision Statement
- MCWDB Strategic Plan Goal Categories and Goals
  - Partnerships
  - Impact
  - Innovation

Chairman Veres thanked Mr. Clark for the MCWDB Strategic Plan Goals summary and opened the floor to the Committee for discussion of the Youth Committee Goals. The following thoughts were discussed. Mr. Clark noted that he would summarize the discussed goals with action items for the Committee’s consideration at their next meeting.

| Potential Goal Focus  | Discussion  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth Outreach</li></ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finding additional avenues of reaching youth to share the available opportunities and services. Possibly sharing with high school counselors.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth Apprenticeships</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and/or discussing the creation of youth apprenticeships (out-of-school youth).</li><li>• Service Provider regularly shares apprenticeship opportunities with youth, however, the traction has been limited. Will continue to share opportunity with youth.</li><li>• AZ Construction Days coming up in November. The previous year saw over 3200 students attend.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Middle 60 Focus</li></ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engaging with school counselors</li><li>• Attending K-12/High School Education Conferences</li><li>• Attending School Superintendent’s Organization Annual Event</li><li>• Encourage Board Members to attend the above events as well.</li><li>• Continuing to connect/partner with CTE</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Partnerships</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brainstorm ways to connect with businesses and their potential involvement.</li></ul>   |

Mr. Clark noted that he would summarize the discussed goals with action items for the Committee’s consideration at their next meeting.

Summer Youth Program

Maricopa County Workforce Development Division Assistant Director Jared Beard provided a presentation on the Summer Youth Program. Below are a few highlights from Mr. Beard’s verbal presentation.

Summer Youth Program

- Program Overview
  - \$2.2 million (Maricopa County)
  - Ages 16-21
  - Focus on in-demand industries
  - Placement into subsidized work experience and assessments during summer months (May-Sept)
  - Offers continued employment beyond the end of program
  - \$15/per hour (minimum of 20 hours)

- \$500 Completion Incentive (good attendance and participation)
- Program goal is expected to assist 500 students
- Next Steps
  - Engaging with students beyond the summer program to provide youth services
  - Increase the number of participants for available opportunities

Chair Veres thanked Mr. Beard for this presentation on the Summer Youth Program.

MCWDB Committee Member Forum: Connecting Youth to Careers

Committee Member Marie Raymond shared a story experienced by the City of Tempe’s summer internship program. The re-repeat intern found success with the summer internship program by being hired by the City of Tempe as a full-time employee. Without having attended the internship program, the intern would not have realized their eligibility for the full-time opportunity.

Chair Veres thanked Ms. Raymond for the City of Tempe’s youth success story.

**Call to the Public.**

Chair Veres made a call to the public for comments. No one spoke.

**Adjourn.**

Chair Veres adjourned the MCWDB Youth Committee meeting at 2:58 pm.

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