

Career Technology and Workforce Development

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2025

2:00-3:00pm

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Diana Bailey, Dr. Stephen Steurer, Richard Gibson, Jenna Bachman, Danielle Cox, Ramioka Robinson, Jamel Freeman, Ainsley Moench

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2pm.

A. Approval of September meeting minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved.

II. Discussion and vote on recommendation drafts

Diana Bailey went over the first recommendation, which is to conduct a review of transitional programming and ensure offerings are aligned with population needs. She asked where the data for the visual charts came from, and Ainsley Moench responded that the data was sourced from the Maryland Longitudinal Data Systems Center (MLDSC) and compilations of past Correctional Education Council reports. Dr. Stephen Steurer asked if there was any knowledge on the sample size for the MLDSC data, and Ainsley Moench responded that the sample size may have been suppressed due to the lack of a large dataset and confidentiality concerns.

Diana Bailey went over the second recommendation, which is to encourage the Department of Labor to continue using the MLDSC partnership to align occupational programs with labor market outcomes.

There were no comments or suggestions.

Diana Bailey went over the third recommendation, which is to request legislation to create a line item to fund the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Program with the opportunity to expand with grant funding.

Dr. Stephen Steurer added that this recommendation would potentially become a piece of legislation that delegates may want to put forward.

Diana Bailey went over the fourth recommendation, which is to ask the Maryland Department of Labor to report on how many professional and occupational licenses have been denied due to criminal history since 2021 by June 30, 2026. Ainsley Moench responded that John Feaster III indicated he would be able to work with the licensing office and create a report.

Diana Bailey went over the fifth recommendation, which is to create a pilot program to use work release to place pre-apprenticeship graduates into community apprenticeships when they are within 18 months of release, ensuring they are released employment-ready and with job connections. Danielle Cox clarified that incarcerated individuals (IIs) would have to qualify. There are restrictions on work release and IIs must be paid at least the minimum wage. She asked who would be paying the IIs. Diana Bailey responded that typically, employers pay for the apprenticeship. Danielle Cox replied that the recommendation should be changed to “work-based learning,” rather than “work release,” to grant more flexibility. Ramieka Robinson agreed, saying that doing this under work-based learning has the potential to affect many lives. Danielle Cox added that there are already work-based learning opportunities, such as those available through the Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP). Those in the GPEP program are placed with an employer, such as the National Alliance for Higher Education in Prison, to work while incarcerated. Additionally, DPSCS is in talks with Howard Community College to do a line cook apprenticeship program where IIs can earn a culinary certificate during an 18-month college credit program. Finally, there are several states, including Maine and California, that have a robust work-based learning model. Jessica Johnson added that she would update John Feaster III on the change from “work-release” to “work-based learning.”

Diana Bailey went over the last recommendation, which is to review and recommend comprehensive licensing requirements for licensing authorities to not restrict licensing based on criminal history unless it is directly related to the license, including reporting on when licensing is denied based on criminal history. Jamel Freeman commented that he would like the recommendation to reflect a past House Bill

482, which states that departments cannot refuse an occupational license due to a criminal history after seven years post-sentence and supervision completion, and creates a predetermination process. Ainsley Moench mentioned that the description of the recommendation does include mention of HB 482 and the predetermination process, but the Governor had vetoed it. Diana Bailey asked why the Governor vetoed it, and the group went over the veto letter, which stated that the bill was well-intentioned but had some exceptions the Governor did not agree with. Dr. Stephen Steurer suggested adding context to the veto to the description of the recommendation. The group discussed different wordings to add to the recommendation and decided to resolve the issue over email.

Diana Bailey asked what the process of sharing the final draft of the workgroup recommendations to the Commission would be. Dr. Stephen Steurer replied that the Commission would receive the final report and vote on the recommendations as a whole. He would like Diana Bailey to present the Career Technology and Workforce Development section of the report.

Ainsley Moench announced that the December workgroup meeting would be cancelled.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44pm.