

HARFORD COUNTY  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**April 20, 2021**

**8:00-9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:

Mikale Brutus, Katie Campbell, Kelly Koermer, Robert Limpert, Kay Malone, Diane Moore, Bill Pelt, Joy Pelt, Joseph Ricci, Stephen Smallidge, Lisa Snodgrass, Stacey Umbarger

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Limpert welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

- **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Limpert shared his agenda, and we reviewed the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting. Minutes were approved.

- **Updates, Donation and Graduation changes**

MSDE with regards to graduation requirement changes has made several suggestions and recommendations to current CTE programs that are currently four credit options for graduation to be reduced to three. One of the ones that does impact one of our schools significantly is the magnet program. It happens to Grace the Oracle program. They have struggled significantly with creating the four-course sequence and had courses that crossed over the database and the Java programming. Which did not pertain specifically to the actual program of study. Because of the requirement changes that MSDE is recommending they have been able to go back and change it to just the three courses in the Java and database pathways.

We are currently spending down our grant and local accounts as we wind down towards the end of the fiscal year.

Regarding the donation to our automotive program, we have sent the letter with a brief outline of how we plan to spend the money. We are now waiting to hear back from the estate attorney.

- **MSDE Grant updates/Perkins 22**

The state recommended with some of the changes from the federal government in the administration that has come down in through Perkins for all systems to do a needs assessment for those of you that were on the committee last year. You

may remember last March Ms. Koermer, and Mr. Limpert did a presentation where they shared out the needs assessment. It was a questionnaire that we went through and answered questions and from that needs assessment we determined the areas that we were going to earmark our funding to help our programs to improve our data points. After consulting with Ms. Koermer, and looking at our needs assessment from last year, we decided to use the same needs assessment from last year. What we will be doing is putting the new data into it.

- **FFCU Partner Presentation**

Lisa Snodgrass gave a presentation about Freedom Federal Credit Union. She is a director of business development with freedom. One of the things she does for freedom is a liaison for Harford County Public Schools and some other great organizations throughout Harford County.

They are not for profit so any profits they receive they reinvest back into Freedom FCU. Which then allows them to give better auto loan interest rates, mortgages, more opportunities for people that would not always necessarily get an auto loan. Or better savings rates on their accounts or less fees or no fees at all. They also like to use that money to contribute back to the community.

A lot of their employees sit on boards or committees in different organizations. Like the Boys and Girls Club and the Harford County Education Foundation. They also do volunteer work. If you have a project that needs to get done, they will send out a group of staff member to volunteer and get the job done.

They are a full-service credit union, they offer mortgages, autoloans, high-rate savings accounts, high-rate checking accounts as well as other products and services. They also offer seminars such as college planning.

They do a lot to support the teachers of Harford County and they are now expanding to Baltimore County as well.

- **HCC Update**

Kelly Koermer gave us an update on what is going on at HCC. With the support of the Harford County government and County Executive Glassman, they will be purchasing a CDL simulator to allow them to deliver commercial driver license certification training. They will still continue their partnership with Cecil College for on the road opportunities that individuals who want to go into private industry. But regarding our CDL program it will be specifically working with the County to provide opportunities for folks to get jobs with driving the Harford link, buses, dump trucks, and other heavy equipment for the County. In addition to that they have received a relief grant from the state which allows them to provide additional short term training opportunities to help get people skilled and back to work or if they are in the workforce to get higher paying careers and better

growth opportunities. They are going to be developing new curriculum in logistics and warehousing with this grant and will be purchasing additional equipment such as scanners and other types of things that Amazon and the other warehouses on Route 40 use as well as offering scholarships for Microsoft Office specialist certification preparation courses. Along with the certification vouchers, books, fees, everything is covered.

We have certified customer service professional training. 90-hour Child Care certification, lifeguard certification, and pool operator certifications.

Thanks to the private donation from the Ratcliffe Foundation they have started offering some classes at the Boys and Girls club, but the Leading-Edge training center will officially open in July, right after the 4th of July break, and they will be offering construction, logistics, warehousing, and machining as well also having the Small Business development center operating out to help entrepreneurs in the area of development and accelerate their businesses.

They are also working on their Perkins proposal. Some of their proposal can be targeted at supporting the P-Tech initiative. They will also be buying an additional welding simulator to put at the Boys and Girls club.

- **Open Dialogue**

Mr. Limpert let everyone know that he would be sending out a survey to see what everyone's thoughts are about meeting in person for next school year.

- **Closing Comments/Adjourn**

Mr. Limpert reminded everyone that our next meeting is on May 12, 2021 and it will be virtual again.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 am