

Maryland Adult Learning Advisory Council
Annie E. Casey Foundation
503 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

September 7, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes

Meeting Outcomes:

- Discussed member priorities and possible synergies among partners
- Shared updates at the state and departmental levels
- Shared initiative to increase access to adult education and literacy services
- Shared initiative to create industry-led partnerships to advance and grow Maryland's workforce
- Shared recidivism initiative implemented in State correctional facilities

Welcome and Introductions, Irene Lee, Chair and Terry R. Gilleland Jr., Co-Chair

The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. and members and guests were welcomed by the Chairs. Each attendee reported a work priority for the last quarter for the year. The June 2018 minutes were approved by the members.

Secretary's Greetings, Secretary Kelly M. Schulz, DLLR

Secretary Schulz greeted the council and highlighted the following:

- The priority of continuing to provide well-rounded adult education and career development for those in need.
- The success of implementing online access to obtain a transcript of GED® test scores and for individuals who earned a Maryland High School Diploma to request a duplicate diploma, a service that was previously unavailable.
- The continual impact adult education and workforce development has on 500,000 adults in Maryland without a high school diploma.
- Improved retention of adult learners from 39% to 59% and the increase in literacy level gains from 51% to 56%.

Office of Adult Education and Literacy Services Updates, Terry R. Gilleland, Jr., Co-Chair

Mr. Gilleland thanked Secretary Schulz for her leadership of DLLR and continual support to improve the lives of Marylanders through adult education and literacy services. He highlighted the following regarding the Office of Adult Education and Literacy Services at DLLR:

- The onboarding of three new Adult Program Specialists, two during the month of August and one by the end of September.
- Beginning next fiscal year, the accountability for performance mandates will affect all states by levying a financial penalty if the negotiated performance targets are not met.
- An RFP will be released to solicit high school equivalency assessment(s). Currently, GED Testing Services is the assessment provider in Maryland.
- The first adult high school has been approved in Maryland. Goodwill Industries will open an adult high school in Baltimore City spring 2019. A second proposal is currently under review. The second Solicitation for Proposals to establish an adult high school was released August 30.
- AELS has a new initiative to expand access to adult education and literacy online. A new curriculum will be developed for this initiative which will begin October 2018.

EARN: Moving MD's Workforce Forward, Jill Hamilton, EARN Grant Advisor, DLLR

- Targets low skilled, no skilled and incumbent workers to eliminate barriers and create responsive career pathways.
- EARN is a collaboration of diverse industry partners to meet workforce needs.
- The strategic industry partnerships must include at least 5 employer/industry partners and 2 diverse entities from higher education, local government, local workforce development boards or non-profit/community based organizations.
- Over 81% of EARN participants have obtained employment.
- The EARN budget for FY19 is \$8 million.

Behind the Fence: Reducing Recidivism through Technology, Danielle Cox, Academic Coordinator, DLLR

- Maryland Correctional Education implemented a pilot program of providing tablets for student inmate use.
- The tablets are used in the classroom as a supplementary educational tool to improve reading, subject area expertise and ultimately drive success in GED® testing.
- The program launched in 2017 and is being piloted at Maryland Correctional Institute for Women and Brockbridge Correctional Facility with 6 tablets per institution. During FY19, additional institutions will be added to receive tablets.
- There have been no issues with safety and security as the tablets are on a closed cellular system and students can only access specific, allowable information.
- The program has been well received by students and teachers. Student engagement is at an all-time high using the tablets 4 hours per week minimum.
- The teachers have the ability to benchmark student progress by generating student reports and using the data to guide instruction.

Looking Over the Horizon: Expanding Access to Adult Education & Literacy Services, Terry R. Gilleland, Jr., Director of Adult Education and Literacy Services, DLLR

- Strengthen the capability for Maryland's adult education providers to deliver learning content online, blended and in face to face environments
- Provide a learning management system and support the integration of current content.
- Provide a robust professional development program to promote statewide training.
- Design and develop tools and resources to support instructors.
- Provide institutional capacity to increase learner retention, graduation rates and career pathways.

Closing Discussion, Irene Lee, Chair and Terry Gilleland Jr., Co-Chair
Secretary Schulz

- Secretary Schulz reiterated the purpose and importance of pre-apprenticeships, workforce development and EARN for employment and career advancement.
- In addition, the importance of moving learners with no or little job training and those with low literacy levels successfully through effective programs to increase skills and literacy to access better opportunities.

Terry Gilleland

- Mr. Gilleland emphasized the Office of Instructional Services' commitment to partner providers to increase learner retention, graduation rates and career pathways through technology enhancements and professional development.

Irene Lee

Ms. Lee thanked everyone for attending and invited attendees to the networking lunch provided by Job Opportunities Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.