**Correctional Education Council (CEC) Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 13, 2023**

**Google Meet & Conference Call**

**Council Members**

Secretary Carolyn Scruggs, Dr. Jack Cunning, Jack Weber, Jennfier Gauthier, Michael DiGiacomo, Michael Martirano, Patrick Wynn, Secretary Portia Wu, Sylvia Lawson, Theresa Shank

**Staff and Guests**

Brittney Hansen, Casey Tifenwerth, Danielle Cox, Deron Crawford, Diana Dabbs, Donna Rojas, Dwayne Lovett, Elizabeth Marts, Ellen Bredt, Dr. Erica Dubose, Erin Roth, James Rzepkowski, Julia Givens, June Brittingham, Kari Pompilli, Katharine Lander, Kenneth Jessup, Leza Griffith, Lloyd Day, Logan Dean, Marsha Briley, Mary Keller, Patrick Hruz, Peggy Stanford, Richard Chambers, Robin Conley, Shannice Anderson, Shea Zwerver, Dr. Tamara Barron, Terende Thomas, Theodore Hunter, Tricia Hopkins

**Absent**

Alyssa Webster, Amanda Cram, Andre James, Andrea King, Angela Keith, Antoin Quarlesel, Antoine Payne, Chris Hadfield, Chris Maclarion, Christina Sparr, Cynthia Blackwell, Deborah Grinnage- Pulley, Dylan McDonough, Edward Schwabeland, Felicia McLean, Frances Tracy Mumford, Francisco Vega, Ja'Ken Caston, Jamaal Ferguson, James Grossman, Dr. James Klauber, Janay Harris, Janell Johnson, Janet Lane, Jason Perkins-Cohen, Kaitlin Marsden, Kathy Agans, Kimberly Stewart, Kip Kunsman, Laura Martin, LeAnn Lorenz, Leroy Mills, Lonnie Lewis, Louis Dubin, Marshel Lawrence, Mary Ann Thompson, Matthew McKinney, Melissa Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Michele Savage, Michele Speakman, Michelle Compton, Mohammed Chounhury, Nicole Cameron, Rachel Sessa, Richard McCarthy, Sarah Beardsley, Shakera Lambert, Shane McCormick, Sheri Smith, Susan Kaliush, Tammy Proctor, Tawanda Redding, Tracy Queen, Yariela Kerr-Donovan

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) Secretary Portia Wu called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was reached.

**Welcome**

MD Labor Secretary Wu welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate. She mentioned that she was excited to be part of this meeting and looking forward to working with everyone.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the December 12, 2022, minutes was made and seconded. Jack Weber motioned to adopt it and it was seconded by Secretary Scruggs. The minutes were approved at 10:05 a.m.

**Updates from MD Labor (Secretary Portia Wu)**

Secretary Wu expressed that she is very excited by the work of this council and that the council’s mission aligns with the Governor’s message to *“leave no one behind”*. She talked about the importance of education and training for those who are leaving the justice system and reentering the workforce and society and how the work being done in this space makes a huge difference. Secretary Wu shared a story from several years ago about when she attended an event focused around education and opportunity that was hosted at a Maryland correctional institution. While she was there she spoke to an incarcerated young man who told her that the first time he was told that he had good grades and could potentially go to college was in prison. That young man went on to receive his college degree and start up a nonprofit to assist others gain access to education. Secretary Wu talked about how critical it is to not only provide those educational opportunities behind the fence but also to connect returning citizens to secure workforce opportunities upon their reentry. Secretary Wu thanked everyone for all of their hard work and partnership and shared that she is excited to be a part of this group and all of the opportunities it presents.

**Updates from DPSCS (Secretary Carolyn Scruggs)**

Secretary Carolyn Scruggs welcomed Secretary Wu to the council and thanked everyone for attending. She mentioned that she has attended many of these meetings, however, it is the first time attending in her new role as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). Secretary Scruggs also shared that she has met with Secretary Wu and they are both looking forward to collaborating on a number of dynamic initiatives, with one of the largest priorities being to ensure that the occupational skills and training being offered directly connect to industry needs to secure immediate employment for returning citizens. Additionally, the Secretary expressed the goal of becoming more data driven so that the state can ensure that its reporting is accurate and can be used to identify areas of success and those that can be improved upon. She thanked everyone for all of the attendees, including staff and partners, for their work, collaboration and commitment to advancing the correctional system.

**Correctional Education Updates**

Secretary Wu opened the floor for Correctional Education (CE) staff to share updates concerning staff vacancies, GED numbers, Special Education, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and transitional programming.

**Staff Vacancies (Dr. Jack Cunning)**

Jack Cunning, Acting Director of CE at MD Labor’s Division of Workforce Development

and Adult Learning (DWDAL) provided an update on CE

vacancies

* The following position have been filled since the last CEC meeting in December:
	+ Adult Basic Education (ABE) teacher at Roxbury Correctional institution (RCI)
	+ 2 ABE teachers at Jessup Correctional institution (JCI)
	+ ABE/English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Maryland Correctional Institution- Women(MCI-W)
* The following positions have interviews scheduled:
	+ ABE teacher at RCI
	+ Electrical Instructor at Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC)
* The following positions are posted at the present time:
	+ Graphic Communications Instructor at Occupational Skills Training Center (OSTC)
	+ School Psychologist at Headquarters (HQ)
		- CE has had significant difficulty filling this position
	+ Occupational (Carpentry) Instructor at MCTC
* The following positions will be posted upon the upcoming retirement of current employees:
	+ ABE Teacher at JCI (March 21, 2023)
	+ Office Secretary III at MCTC (April 2023)
	+ Automotive Instructor at RCI (April 2023)
	+ Warehousing instructor at OSTC (April 2023)
* There are a total of 5 vacant positions at the present time.

**Academic Updates (Patrick Hruz)**

Patrick Hruz, Academic Coordinator of Correctional Education (CE) at MD Labor’s

DWDAL, reported on academic updates.

* TABLET Program data:
	+ Due to the cellular connectivity issues encountered within the facilities, the CE team has been working with SCD Information Technology to develop connectivity solutions for each site.
	+ The SCD team has visited each site in person over the past 1 ½ months
	+ The team has identified cellular extenders and potentially other hardware as solutions to address the connectivity issues and are expecting to receive a proposal and quote by the end of the month..
	+ On February 22, the APDS team provided four hours of professional development training for all of the teachers/instructors and principals from each of the correctional education programs across the state. The focus of the training was the new Learning Management System (LMS) that allows course materials to be uploaded to the LMS application so that the students can access them on their tablets. During the session time was allocated for teachers/instructors to either upload additional materials, or, if they were unfamiliar with LMS, they were provided the opportunity to explore the system while having access to technical support.
* Academic Progress Data
	+ From July 1, 2022 through March 9, 2023:
		- 147 students have earned their GED/HSD
		- 85% pass rate for MD Correctional Education
		- 72% National pass rate

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PASS RATES** | Math | RLA | Science | Social Studies |
| MD Corr. Ed. | 89% | 86% | 89% | 86% |
| National | 72% | 82% | 87% | 83% |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Average GED Test Scores** | Math | RLA  | Science | Social Studies |
| MD Corr. Ed.  | 151 | 152 | 153 | 153 |
| Maryland\* | 138 | 139 | 143 | 142 |

\**Maryland includes all other GED testing sites excluding MD Correctional Education.*

* + The Pipeline to the GED
		- 133 students have passed 1 part of the GED (previously 100)
		- 87 students have passed 2 parts of the GED (previously 68)
		- 57 students have passed 3 parts of the GED (previously 29
* Student Success Story:

For the purposes of this story, the student will be called “Ronnie”.

Ronnie began his education at the Patuxent Institution, then soon transferred to

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). Ronnie arrived with many challenges

and barriers that should have impacted his ability to succeed, but Ronnie was

determined to succeed.

In no time (1 ½ months) Ronnie passed all 4 of the GED tests. While

passing is a score of 145, Ronnie exceeded the minimum requirement with a score

of 158 – math, 156 – RLA, 161 – Science, and 166 – Social Studies. These scores

are not only passing (score of 145) but also exceed MD Correctional Education

averages. This was hardly the end of Ronnie’s educational pursuits.

Ronnie then enrolled in the Warehouse Distribution Program at OSTC and began

on October 17, 2022. This April Ronnie will complete and graduate from the

program.

In addition to all of his aforementioned accomplishments, while Ronnie enrolled in

the Warehouse Distribution Program, he also earned a Forklift Certification, a

Flagger Certification, and passed the ASE Refrigerant and Recovery Exam!

Ronnie is a true success story. Jack thanked everyone who played a part in

assisting Ronnie along the way!

**Special Education (Kathrine Lander)**

Katherine Lander, Special Education Coordinator for CE at MD Labor’s DWDAL,

reported on Special Education updates.

* Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training:
	+ Katharine shared that she will be attending the 1st cohort of OWDS Training with CE staff, Reentry Navigators and Job Center Directors.
		- CE Staff, Reentry Navigators, and Job Center Directors will be certified by March 31st.
		- Some will attend the course to be OWDS-Instructors (OWDS-I) so they can train the 2nd CE cohort.
		- The goal is to have multiple OWDS CE staff certified in every region to provide additional transition resources for all teachers and students.
* RFP (Request for Proposals):
	+ Katharine is in the process of working with procurement to obtain a bid so that a contractual company can provide Special Education counseling services to students across the state.
		- Licensed Counselors, School Psychologists and/or Social Workers are needed.
* Grant Fund Spending:
	+ OWDS:
		- Cost for 8 Correctional Education employees to attend
	+ Special education related service provider fees:
		- Part-Time Psychologist and PT Speech Pathologist through AACC
	+ Classroom resources:
		- Classroom book sets
		- TABE support books
		- school supplies
		- Study Buddy cartridges to enhance Math and Reading skills
	+ Professional Development:
		- Katharine will be attending COABE in April
		- 2-day Special Education Professional Development Training in the Spring
* School reports: Per Special Education Teachers/Case Managers
	+ Technology:
		- Study Buddy devices have been successfully implemented at the ABE Literacy/ Beginning Basic level and tablets within the ABE Intermediate High / GED level.
		- TABE testing results have shown student’s academic growth as a result of the combination of intensive instruction and the integration of the Study Buddy devices in large and small group settings:
			* The devices have proven to be beneficial to both students and teachers. These tools help to target specific areas students are struggling with and provide them with another mode of learning that helps solidify their understanding of the content.
		- Metropolitan Transition Center (MTC)
			* They held their first ever High School graduation, in collaboration with Youth Detention Center, for two students. The ceremony was a celebratory event.
			* Two students are pending graduation this summer, one through collaboration with YDC and the other earning his HS diploma at MTC.
		- Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup (MCI-J)
			* For the last couple of months, the Special Education classroom has been doing daily wellness check-ins to address the student’s social emotional learning, which has helped them identify their feelings and thoughts in preparation to learn for the day.
			* School bulletin boards have created positive dialogue and interactions. Most of the boards are student created and give them a sense of pride and an outlet for creativity. The GED boards with graduate photos are a huge boost for student pride and motivation:
				+ One student even said, "My mom is going to be so happy to see me in a cap and gown."
		- Patuxent (PAXT)
			* One student passed the GED and obtained his high school Diploma.
			* For students who applied, Pearson granted all of them their IEP accommodations to use for GED Testing.
			* Two students have passed 3/4 sections of the GED
			* Three other students are taking GED test sections.
		- Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI)
			* ECI-East:
				+ Five student’s formal academic and cognitive testing were successfully completed in order to determine his/her current disability coding and present levels of achievement.
			* ECI-West:
				+ One student has passed 3/4 of the GED tests.

This was a remarkable feat as he was on the 8th grade level for Reading, and 5th grade level for Math and Written Language since 2021.

* + - * + Two students have completed 2/4 of the GED tests. High school graduations are expected.
		- MCTC
			* There has been very effective collaboration between the two special education teachers, and general education teachers, to help ensure students with IEPs are receiving excellent instruction. The teachers have seen an increase in student motivation and diligence.
			* A student who refused to read aloud the first couple months has read an entire book called, "The Coffee Bean", with his teacher and the classroom aide and as a result he learned the analogy of how to be a “coffee bean” and change his environment in a positive way instead of allowing his environment to change him.
			* A student will test for two GED sections this semester.
			* The special educators have received new laptops to help complete case management responsibilities more efficiently.
		- RCI
			* One student has completed 2/4 of the GED tests. He is scheduled to take the GED Ready, Reading Language Arts, in March and is anticipated to pass and proceed to earn his HS Diploma.
			* The Special Education teacher, DPSCS Transition staff and CE Re-entry Navigators are successfully collaborating to facilitate home/ re-entry plans for two students approaching release.
		- WCI and NBCI:
			* Two students passed their GED and earned their HS Diploma shortly after they aged out of special education.
				+ One of these students was an academic aid in the math classroom after graduation.

**Occupational Updates (Dr. Tamara Barron)**

Dr. Tamara Barron, Occupational Coordinator for CE at MD Labor’s DWDAL, reported

on CTE updates.

* FY23 Occupational Updates:
	+ Correctional Education’s (CE) Career and Technical Education (CTE) training programs are operational, and students continue to complete training and earn industry recognized credentials based on their trades.
	+ MD Labor occupational completion certificates are being printed again and distributed to institutions regularly.
	+ Between July 1, 2022, and March 3, 2023:
		- 204 students have completed a CTE Training Program (237 FY22)
		- 297 national certifications and/or industry recognized credentials have been earned (406 FY22)
	+ School closures (due to limited officer coverage) has and continues to impact course completion for all CE programs.
* Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE):
	+ The Perkins Grant Funding:
		- The Correctional Education FY23 Carl D. Perkins grant application was approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and spending is ongoing.
		- Schools are acquiring instructional materials and tools and equipment as needed.
		- Funding has also been utilized as approved to support ongoing professional development as well as credential testing through our external vendors.
		- Correctional Education will be requesting a grant extension due to the late release of the grant application as well as the subsequent late approval of the grant proposal.
* On-Line National Certification Testing (DPSCS Labs and Labor Tablets):
	+ Overall Testing Updates:
		- Online testing for CTE trades (Construction, Auto, etc.) is operational and things are going very well!!!
		- Jim Boden and DPSCS IT again have done an outstanding job to ensure that CE can test securely.
		- The Technology Subcommittee still meets weekly to troubleshoot any challenges, which, at this point, are minimal.
		- Schools with Occupational programs are using both the DPSCS/CE labs and CE tablets where available.
		- Dr. Barron is working with schools to offer OSHA 10 online training and testing for all construction trades students. This is a requirement of MSDE for students in the construction trades.
			* As this program is perfected, and as funding is available, CE will expand the opportunity to students in trades such as the Barber Stylist Limited License Training Program, Automotive Maintenance and Repair, Warehouse and Distribution Training.
			* CE will also pilot a Flagger Training class as well as a group at MCIW participating in the Flagger Training Class.
* CTE Program Highlights
	+ The Barber Stylist Limited License Training Program:
		- 2 students from OSTC and 2 students from RCI’s Barber Stylist Training Programs have completed their 900 hour training requirement and are eligible to sit for the Barber Stylist Limited License Practical and Theory Exam. This took quite some time due to COVID so it is a big accomplishment.
		- For the first time ever, OSTC had two of their students take the exam while incarcerated in Maryland’s prisons.
			* This took a great deal of coordination between CE staff, the school, PSI staff from various departments, and the Maryland State Board of Cosmetologists and Barbers to arrange for licensure testing behind the fence.
			* This has never been done before in Maryland and both entities are excited to see this come to fruition.
			* Although an incarcerated individual cannot hold an active license while incarcerated, they are able to take the licensure exam in preparation for applying for their license upon their release. By passing the licensure exam prior to their release, students have one less thing to worry about once they return to their communities.
			* Both the Maryland State Board of Cosmetologist and Barbers and PSI have been very supportive and are working with CE to make this happen for students.
		- Occupational Success Story:

Despite training and a job opportunity in hand, returning citizens still face a number of challenges even after release. In fact, one of RCI’s graduates, Mr. H, has been released from incarceration and is working withDr.Barron, his instructor Mr. Allen, the principal, a Reentry Navigator in Baltimore, as well as PSI to register for testing so that he can officially obtain his barbers license and move towards his ultimate goal to have his own barbershop.

He is currently working in the community as an Apprentice under a Master Barber and all aforementioned parties are collectively assisting him with his registration paperwork so that he can sit for licensure testing very soon at a local testing location.

There are a number of steps that one must take to get licensed, and we appreciate and support his drive to overcome the various challenges and continue to pursue licensure.

* + The Traffic Control Safety Technician (Flagger) Training Classes:
		- This class is a one-day training and certification class, and the program is going exceptionally well.
		- Dr.Barron took the time to thank Ms. Lorenz, the Teacher Supervisor at OSTC who also serves as our Flagger Instructor for the pilot group in the Central Region (OSTC, MCIW, and DRCF).
		- This program is being piloted through grant funding in the Central Region (OSTC, Dorsey Run Correctional Facility [DRCF], and MCIW).
		- As of March 3, 2023 230 students have acquired the training and national certifications for FY 23.
		- Upon students’ release, this certification, especially when coupled with a certification in the construction trades, opens the door of opportunity for so many students after their release.
		- Dr. Barron is working on a proposal to expand this program regionally as this program presents immediate career opportunities in construction trades upon release.
	+ The Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) Training Program:
		- CPRS has expanded to include a number of new institutions for FY23: The participating institutions are:
			* DRCF
			* MCIW
			* JCI
			* MCTC
			* WCI
			* ECI
			* MCIJ
			* Central Maryland Correctional Facility (CMCF)
		- CPRS is now a 600-hour CTE training program and successful program participants will be eligible to receive the additional diminution credits as well as take the Maryland licensure exam.
		- Some participants are very close to testing and Mary Keller and Casey Tiefenwerth are working closely with the Maryland Department of Health’s (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to facilitate registration for the board exams. Additional updates are forthcoming.
		- As of March 8th, 2023, 68 incarcerated individuals have received training toward their peer recovery specialist certification at five institutions across the state. Those institutions include:
			* MCIW
			* DRCF
			* MCIJ
			* WCI
			* ECI-E
			* Additional cohorts will take place in the Spring, and we expect to hit our goal of at least 96 individuals trained in this fiscal year.
		- One of the requirements for certification is to earn 500 community service hours.
			* We anticipate more than 450 unique individuals have received services in the first half of the fiscal year.
		- Twenty students from JCI's FY22 cohort were recently approved to take their certification exam.
			* That exam will take place on April 7, 2023.
		- Over the last quarter, Labor and DPSCS have launched regular professional development opportunities to provide additional resources for Registered Peer Supervisors (DPSCS staff) that are tasked with providing support to the CPRSs. Labor, DPSCS, and the Department of Health met on March 13 to explore pursuing additional funding to continue the program in FY24.
	+ The Joint Skills Training Partnership (JSTP) Program, which documents On-the-Job Training skills development (OJT), continues to operate, and is fully staffed.
		- CE has 3 JSTP Program Assistants:
			* Mr. Othello Williams (Central Region)
			* Mr. Robert “Bob” Allison (Western Region)
			* Mr. Daniel “Dan” Norris (Eastern Region)
		- This is a voluntary program to document skills learned at the end of a work assignment for incarcerated workers. Those skills are documented on resumes as well as shared during parole hearing and employment interviews.
		- The JSTP Program Managers are working with CE school staff, MCE Plant Managers, as well as officers and DPSCS institutional staff that supervise incarcerated workers to educate supervisors about the program and the benefits it provides to incarcerated workers.
	+ The Cemetery Historical Preservation and Restoration Training Program
		- The training program began at the DRCF on Tuesday, February 21, 2023
		- This is a 6-8 week training program.
		- After this group concludes, a group at MCIW will participate in the 6-8 week training program.
* Professional Development:
	+ On Thursday, February 23, 2023, Dr.Barron and Dr. DuBose (Transition Coordinator) facilitated an all day virtual professional development workshop for nearly 100 participants.
	+ The participants included Labor HQ staff, CE principals, all CE CTE instructors, Transitional instructors, Reentry Navigators, and JSTP.
	+ Participants engaged in a number of exciting workshops and activities centered around helping students utilize their talents, interests and skills to successfully transition back home to their communities and the workforce.
	+ There were a number of presenters that shared information about harnessing one’s talent, understanding one’s leadership style and the importance of learning how to work with others who might have a different leadership style.
	+ During the workshop participants learned more about connecting students to Registered Apprenticeship (RA) opportunities in their home communities and also learned about the work that the Reentry Navigators do on a daily basis to help support students post-release.
	+ The workshop was extremely helpful in identifying the barriers students face after release and collaboratively devising solutions on how to address those barriers.

**Transitional Updates (Dr. Erica DuBose)**

Dr. Erica DuBose, Transition Coordinator of CE at MD Labor’s DWDAL, reported on transition updates.

* Students and Certificate Updates:
	+ As of January 31, 2023 792 certificates have been earned for FY23. Classes are back up and running on a normal schedule.
* Staffing:
	+ Down to just 3 vacancies in the Central region.
* Spending:
	+ Spending has been approved and Dr.DuBose is currently working with schools and teachers to order materials and exhaust funds.
* Entrepreneurship:
	+ CE is continuing to work on preparing to roll out the Entrepreneurship Academy pilot.
		- APDS has uploaded all the pdf and video files, and Dr.DuBose is now working on getting the toolkit ready to print.
		- Once staffing is secured, everything will be in place to hit the ground running with this exciting new opportunity.
		- Dr.DuBose took the time to thank everyone that contributed toward getting this done.
		- With regards to the tablets, the pilot program of Motivational Messaging pilot will begin with the students at OSTC.
		- Students will receive prompts to start and complete tasks, as well as congratulatory remarks when a task has been completed.
		- It is the hope to use this as an additional motivational tool to inspire students to continue moving forward
* OWDS Training:
	+ Several transition instructors participated in a week-long OWDS training Jan. 23-Jan 27.
	+ Dr. DuBose was able to check in on the participants and was happy to report that all participants are engaged and meeting the necessary benchmarks to complete the training.
	+ She shared that she is very excited about the new ideas and cross-collaboration taking place.
* Resource Fair:
	+ Dr.DuBose and Janell Johnson (a Reentry Navigator) will be participating in the DPSCS Resource Fair on April 6, 2023 and will provide information about correctional education and post-incarceration resources.
* Correctional Education Council Meetings:
	+ There are a lot of new faces that will need to be invited to the CEC meetings. If anyone is aware or of someone that needs to be added to the calendar invite please feel free to email Dr.Dubose (erica.dubose@maryland.gov)
	+ Additionally, if anyone is aware of someone who has attended meetings in the past, but has vacated their position, please let Dr.DuBose know.
* Meetings:
	+ Dr .Erica DuBose is always looking for innovative programs that can benefit the students in the CE transition program and encourages individuals to reach out if they know of an organization that works with returning citizens and would like to see them highlighted during one of the CEC meetings.

**Regional Principal Updates**

Secretary Wu opened the floor for regional principals to provide updates. The CEC features different principals each meeting to share updates from their facilities.

**Western Region (Deron Crawford)**

* MCIH
	+ A new GED teacher has been hired allowing for the school to accommodate more students
	+ All of their contractual positions are filled
	+ They now have a TABE tester, GED Proctor, Transition Specialist, and an Occupational Tester.
	+ They are having class almost 100% of the days each week.
	+ During the last semester students earned 11 academic certificates, 15 transition certificates, and 1 GED.
* RCI
	+ RCI recently opened up their Computer Technology program. However, their Auto Mechanics program will be closing at the end of the month due to a retirement.
	+ RCI graduated 6 from their Barbering program recently.
* MCTC
	+ All but 1 contractual position is filled meaning allowing MCTC to offer Intro to Computers, Keyboarding, and Life Skills classes again
	+ In January the Auto Mechanics shop was opened and currently has 13 individuals scheduled.
	+ Classes are meeting almost 100% of the time which is excellent for student achievement.
	+ MCTC is also holding an Informational session this week for candidates interested in becoming Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS)

**Central Region (Tricia Hopkins)**

Tricia Hopkins, Principal at Maryland Correctional Institution- Hagerstown (MCI-H), shared updates from the central region.

* MCPRS
	+ 30 students have earned a high school diploma this FY to include 13 since the beginning of the calendar year.
	+ Peer Recovery and Cemetery Detail classes are going well.
	+ Living Classrooms will be giving workshops to eligible participants starting in April.
* Patx
	+ 1 SPED student obtained HS Diploma thru GED for this School Year
	+ Pearson granted 100% of SPED students requesting SPED accommodations for GED Testing.
	+ There are 2 SPED students who only need to pass one more subject in order to obtain their high school diploma
	+ A total of 5 SPED students were testing on the GED Test.
	+ Library:
		- There has been a complete update of all of the current books. Library shelving is complete and a new schedule developed that allows almost all IPs a morning and afternoon during the week for visiting the library.
	+ Computers:
		- New computers for the computer lab have arrived!
* JCI
	+ There are 2 new PIN teachers and JCI is implementing a team teaching model (a language arts/social studies teacher will team teach with a teacher that teachers math & science) for beginning basic and low intermediate classes & intermediate high and GED/secondary are a team
	+ We also have a new evening librarian who will start on March 8th.
	+ Finally, "20" Peer Recovery IP's are scheduled to take their certification exam on April 7th.
* MCIJ
	+ Currently providing the men with tablets and making steady progress.
* OSTC
	+ 30 students have earned occupational certifications to date.
	+ Started rolling out the OSHA 10 curriculum in Jan, over 15 students have completed the certification
	+ Living Classrooms is now visiting the students on a monthly basis
	+ New Navigator, Ms Johnson starts this Wednesday visiting our students on a monthly basis at OSTC and BCCC
* BCCC
	+ 9 men have earned their High School Diplomas to date.

**Eastern Region and Library Updates (June Brittingham)**

* Eastern Region:
	+ ECIE and ECIW have each awarded 5 new GED’s since our last meeting.
	+ ECI Annex has 7 GEDs so far in this FY. The hard working, knowledgeable staff have identified IPs ready for GED testing and incorporated wonderful targeted teaching strategies to help these soon to be released IPs achieve this goal before release.
	+ The New ERW instructor began in October and has completed one round of ERW classes at ECIE, ECIW and ECIA and is in the middle of his second round of Employment Workshops.
	+ The New ABE instructor for computer lab / Occupational tester is now in place. She has jumped right in and is already testing Occupational students on a weekly basis.
	+ We now have all contractual positions filled with the exception of one ABE instructor at ECIA.
	+ Ethics group with SU is currently going strong and ECIW is working on adding an Ethics group at ECIA.
* CE Libraries:
	+ A new evening librarian has been hired for the central region.
	+ She will be working with four of the libraries in Jessup and is beginning her training this week.
	+ A new contractual employee has just been hired for the HQ office. This is a newly created Library Services Mgr position who will also substitute in Jessup for one of the librarians as needed.
	+ Many of our libraries have received the new circulation system and the Central region is about to begin receiving it. We are working on all libraries having the new circulation system and becoming networked as a system in the near future. Our librarians are each contributing to a google doc set up for comments, problems and suggestions for Jim Boden.

**American Job Center and Reentry Navigator Updates (Lloyd Day)**

Lloyd Day, Director of the Office of Workforce Development, for MD Labor Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) reported on the updates from the American Job Centers (AJC) and Reentry navigators.

* Lloyd Day provided the group with an overview of the Reentry program.
	+ In 2018 the Reentry Navigator Program was piloted to assist in serving returning citizens and work closely with the correctional education team, DPSCS, the AJCs and local businesses/employers.
		- The reentry navigators act as a lesion between partners to refer them to services that would benefits them (they are not a case manager)
		- This program was piloted in 5 local areas (focused in areas where prisons are located and there is a high percentage of returning citizens)
			* Anne Arundel
			* Prince George’s
			* Western MD
			* Baltimore City
			* Lower Shore
	+ Due to the success of the pilot, the program was expanded statewide in 2022 with a total of 11 reentry navigators.
	+ One of the 11 reentry navigators was recently promoted to a permanent position on the business services team so there are only 10 navigators currently.
	+ The hope is that by the end of April 2023 the Reentry team will be fully staffed again, with 11 reentry navigators
	+ There has been a lot of success in connecting returning citizens with Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities.
	+ The reentry navigators have greatly assisted returning citizens in connecting to Title I services.
		- The prior quarter 350 individuals receiving Title I services
		- The most recent quarter 378 individuals receiving Title I services
	+ The Entered Employment rate is higher for the reentry population than the Wagner Peyser population across the state.

**Community Partner Updates**

Janay Harris with Vehicles for Change shared the Community Partner update

* Janay Harris was unable to make this meeting.

**DWDAL Update (Erin Roth)**

Erin Roth, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) at MD Labor shared an update relevant to the work b

* The department recently began to partner with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) to track correctional education students post -release to see how they interact with all of the State’s Systems, Services and Programs.
	+ Next week they should be able to provide a sample of the data they would collect.

**Employer Engagement Committee Updates (Jack Weber)**

Jack Weber, CEO at Uptown Press, reported on Employer Engagement Committee updates. He discussed the connectivity and technical issues within the institutions and potential avenues of addressing these problems. He also introduced a concern regarding work release that was brought to him by Vehicles for Change, Associated Builders and Contractors, and Civic Works. These partners inquired about individuals participating in their programs that are currently out on work release. Additionally he suggested scheduling a meeting with these partners as well as the employer engagement committee to work through and discuss these concerns.

**Concluding Remarks**

* Secretary Wu thanked everyone in attendance for a very successful Correctional Education Council meeting.
* Secretary Wu announced that the new Deputy Secretary, Jason Perkins Cohen, will be joining the department next week and will likely be present for the next CEC meeting.
* Secretary Wu asked if during the next CEC meeting it would be possible to dedicate some time for a strategic conversation about how to ensure effective and efficient collaboration between all of the partners in the realm.
* Secretary Scruggs thanked MD Labor for their partnership and hard work.
* Secretary Scruggs mentioned that she would like to add the Director for Correctional Education at DPSCS to the agenda as a report out for the next meeting.
* Secretary Wu adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

The next meeting of the CEC will be on Monday, June 12, 2023.

###