



COMMERCE SUBCABINET
June 30, 2023

Department of Commerce, World Trade Center, 17th Floor Conference Room
401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore
1pm – 2:30pm
Minutes

Attendance:

Kevin Anderson Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Eduardo Hayden, Small Business Outreach Manager for Special Secretary, Yolanda “Maria” Martinez,
Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Jake Day, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Joshua Kurtz, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources
Kevin Atticks, Secretary of Agriculture
Michael Higgs, Director, State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
Samantha Biddle, Deputy Secretary for Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
(MDOT)
Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor
Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Sanjay Rai, Acting Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Scott Goldman, Chief of Staff for Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment
(MDE)
Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State

Guests:

Shaina Hernandez, Office of the Governor
Adetunji Adenekan, Office of the Governor
Heather Gramm, Assistant Secretary, Commerce
Joe Griffiths, MDP, Regional Resources Workgroup Leader
Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Labor
Tom Riford, Assistant Secretary, Commerce
Alexandria Liu, Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
Julie Woepke, Executive Director, Maryland Economic Development Commission
Aurora Wu

I. Meeting called to Order

Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. He welcomed all attendees and expressed his appreciation for their participation and future collaborations. Secretary Anderson requested all attendees to introduce themselves and the agency they represent.

II. Message from Governor’s Office

Deputy Chief of Staff Shaina Hernandez addressed the Subcabinet and expressed her appreciation for the kick off of the meetings and noted that many agencies are within her portfolio. She welcomed the collaborative approach to meeting the goals and objectives of the Moore-Miller Administration.

III. Overview of the Department of Commerce

Secretary Kevin Anderson addressed the Subcabinet by presenting an overview of the Department and its functions to provide agencies an understanding of opportunities for synergies and collaborations among the Subcabinet. He stated the Department is the primary economic development agency in the state and its mission is to stimulate private investment and create jobs; attract new businesses, grow and retain existing businesses; and assist with workforce training and financial assistance. He added that the Department accomplishes its mission through consulting and expertise; grants, loans, investments; tax credits; supporting tourism, film and the arts; marketing via a blog, email newsletter, social media, publications; and promoting Maryland around the world and at major conferences.

Secretary Anderson then outlined the Department's organization chart and provided detail on the individual units, highlighting the economic impact of programs. Secretary Anderson then provided a rough draft of the interrelationship of the newly created Maryland Economic Development Council, the State Policy Workgroups, the Subcabinet, Department Strategic Plan process, and the Maryland Economic Development Commission feeding into the implementation of the Governor's State Plan. (Presentation on file.)

Secretary Anderson then welcomed comments from the Subcabinet on the Department functions, the vision of the Secretaries on the mission of the Subcabinet, and areas for collaboration.

IV. Subcabinet Structure Discussion

a. Priorities

Comments from the Subcabinet included the opportunity to collaborate arts, tourism and the Arts and Entertainment Districts with the Mainstreet Program; identifying up and coming industries and methods to foster the industries; the desire to tackle big opportunities through multi-agency coordination, i.e. a SWOT team approach or Government Action Teams; increasing the connection of agriculture and tourism and film production; coordinating rebuilding government exercises; improving connection among agencies working with businesses and foreign investments into the state; and engaging universities and tech transfer offices in the discussions of promoting and strengthening industry sector ecosystems.

b. Continuance of Workgroups

Ms. Julie Woepke, Department of Commerce, provided an overview of the former Subcabinet Workgroups - Customer Service, Jobs Creators, Workforce Development, Small Business, Regional Resources, Sustainable Materials Management (SM3). Director Michael Higgs provided additional feedback on the Workgroups from the perspective of the Subcabinet.

Joe Griffiths, Department of Planning, Leader for the Regional Resources Workgroup provided a review of the Regional Resources Teams and typical reports and calls. He described their participation levels noting the improved professional connections to serve businesses and the public; the sharing resources and activities; and brainstorming solutions to address business issues. He then took questions from the Subcabinet.

The Subcabinet accepted the information on the Workgroups under advisement. Several Secretaries requested the team rosters for the Regional Resources Teams for which Ms. Woepke will follow up.

V. Good of the Order

No additional information was shared.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.