



Thursday, June 22, 2023
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
World Trade Center Baltimore
17th floor, Room 1746
401 East Pratt St, Baltimore, MD, 21202

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Perman gave opening remarks and reviewed the ground rules of the meeting. He called the meeting to order and carried out a roll call to confirm attendance.

Board Members in Attendance

1. Jay Perman, MD – Chancellor University System Maryland [Chair]
2. Trushar Agrawal – Senior Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma
3. Richard A. Bendis – President and CEO, BioHealth Innovation, Inc.
4. Jesse Christopher – CEO and Co-founder, Longevity
5. Rebecca Fisher, PhD – Deputy Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
6. Edward Margerrison, PhD – Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
7. Mark Mortenson, JD – Chief Scientific Officer, Clene Nanomedicine
8. KaShauna Rohlehr – Director, Strategy and Business Transformation, GlaxoSmithKline
9. Arti Santhanam, PhD – TEDCO (Ex Officio)
10. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, LaunchPort [Vice Chair]
11. Michael Weingarten – Director, SBIR Development Center, NCI, NIH
12. Christy Wyskiel – Senior Advisor to the President and Executive Director Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures, Johns Hopkins University

Department of Commerce Attendees

1. Kevin Anderson – Secretary
2. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD – Director, Life Sciences
3. Heather Gramm – Assistant Secretary, Business & Industry Sector Development
4. Stefanie Trop, PhD – Senior Manager, Business Development, Life Sciences

General Public Attendees

1. Alex Haarich – Manager, Workforce Development & Partnerships, Maryland Tech Council
2. Helen Montag – Senior Director for Ecosystem Development, Johns Hopkins University
3. Tom Sadowski – Executive Director, Maryland Economic Development Corporation

Dr. Perman reminded everyone about the Board charge to maintain Maryland's preeminence in the life sciences industry and reviewed the meeting's agenda.

Review and Acceptance of February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Perman asked for feedback on the minutes of the February 1, 2023 LSAB meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Mr. Mark Mortenson and seconded by Dr. Ed Margerison and Mr. Bob Storey. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Secretary of Commerce Remarks

Secretary Anderson described the administration's vision for developing a vibrant equitable economy in Maryland: the state is well positioned with resources and needs to develop coordinated strategies to collaborate. He discussed the Build our Futures Grant and thanked the Board for their advocacy and participation. Mr. Christopher commented on the administration's vision to be bold and build on the state's strengths. Dr. Fisher discussed the importance of engaging multiple stakeholders across a diverse state like Maryland. Dr. Santhanam stressed the need for high-level coordination of strategies on the state level. Dr. Perman offered the Board as a resource to the Secretary and the Governor.

MEDCO Strategic Plan Overview

Mr. Tom Sadowski presented a summary of MEDCO's mission, capabilities, and projects. MEDCO is a quasi-government organization created in 1984 by the Maryland General Assembly, to fuel economic growth in Maryland. Their capabilities include issuing revenue bonds, real estate development, tax increment financing, project development and asset management, and expert advisory/consulting services. They developed a strategic plan in 2022 focused on target industry development, innovation capacity development, inclusive and equitable economic growth, and strategic placemaking. He discussed three major life sciences strategic initiatives: 1) Maryland Department of Health and Human Services State Health Laboratory (2011); 2) Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) Zones; and 3) supporting legislation for innovation infrastructure through the Build Our Future Matching Grant Pilot Program. Board member questions focused on the size of projects MEDCO can manage (minimum ~\$2.5M) and comments on the significant needs for transitional phase medical device manufacturing (i.e., not full automation but past prototyping).

Medtech Programming

Mr. Bob Storey summarized members of the board's and Commerce's major roles in recruiting, planning, and participating in the MedTech Innovator event in March, and that the community wants to bring the event back to Baltimore. On NeuroTech Harbor, Mr. Storey shared application numbers for the first cycle of grant solicitations, which received more from Maryland than from any other state. Grants are being reviewed and are under negotiation for proceeding into contract selection. Another solicitation will be published at the end of July. The program organizers from Maryland and Massachusetts have worked together to promote the program at conferences and invited the LSAB to attend the program's national meeting in November.

ARPA-H and FDA Collaboration Request for Information (RFI)

Dr. Ed Margerison has been working closely with ARPA-H on an RFI in collaboration with FDA, which closed in May. He is aware that many responses were submitted and are being reviewed. He is also working with ARPA-H separately from the RFI. While ARPA-H's operations are currently not

well defined, they are structuring programs around program managers to execute projects on specific areas of medicine. Dr. Margerrison is discussing projects to provide regulatory tools to startups.

Mr. Bob Storey described the Board's previous discussions around establishing the Maryland Medical Device Guidance, Prioritization, and Support (GPS) initiative, a medical device testbed, to validate innovative technology in settings of health disparities and varied healthcare systems. A response to the RFI on behalf of the Board was submitted on this topic to ARPA-H. Mr. Bendis mentioned an agreement in the works with ARPA-H to provide entrepreneurs-in-residence.

Federal Funding Opportunities

Mr. Michael Weingarten shared details on the NCI Small Business Transition Grant, a new underutilized open opportunity for academics to transition to small business. Commerce will help promote through marketing channels. Other Omnibus proposals and new contract topics will be opening in July.

Board members voiced their continued support for the State of Maryland providing matching funds to SBIR recipients located in Maryland. Funding can begin to be proposed September 1. Mr. Weingarten can share data from economic impact studies to support this match.

BioHub Maryland Updates

Ms. Alex Haarich provided status updates on BioHub Maryland, which resulted from an LSAB-Maryland Tech Council-industry task force and was funded by \$5M in state and federal funds for the next two years:

- Curriculum: BioHub is currently negotiating licensing for a biotech training program curriculum with NIBRT and piloting a small cohort of virtual courses with partner Platoon 22.
- Partnerships: BioHub has created a Veterans Advisory committee and Community Outreach committee.
- Facilities: BioHub is exploring interim training facilities, possibly with academic institutions like Hood College and are searching for a facility director.

General Discussion

Mr. Bendis shared that Maryland was ranked #3 in the recent CBRE talent report.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Perman thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. Members wishing to submit items for the next meeting's agenda should contact Dr. Desiderio. Dr. Perman adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.