

# **Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup (Made in Maryland)**

**November 9, 2021; 10:00am-12:00pm**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Workgroup Members in Attendance:**

- Delegate Lily Qi, Chair
- Senator Chris West
- Senator Jim Rosapepe
- Delegate Johnny Mautz
- Todd Sabin, Maryland Commerce
- Erin Roth, Maryland Labor
- Lance Schine, Maryland DOIT
- Mike Galiazzo, RMI
- Lindsay Ryan, USM
- Wynne Briscoe, SBDC
- Suzy Ganz, MMAB
- Kelly Koermer, MACC
- Chris Cosgrove, RAMP MD
- Mike Kelleher, Maryland MEP
- Adam Porter, Fraunhofer USA
- Bob Mather, Stanley Black & Decker
- Ken Sanchez, Chesapeake Specialty Products
- Jack Weber, Uptown Press
- Irnande Altema, MICUA
- April Richardson, Food Opportunity

### **Staff:**

- Heather Gramm, Maryland Commerce
- Jen LaHatte, Maryland Commerce
- Mike Siers, Maryland Commerce
- Richard Clinch, Jacob France Institute

### **Public:**

- Peter O'Neill, Fraunhofer USA
- Katie Hardy, Office of Delegate Qi

### **Welcome and Approval of Minutes:**

Delegate Qi gave welcome remarks and presented draft minutes from the September and October 2021 meetings. With no comments on the minutes, Senator West made a motion to approve, Senator Rosapepe made the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Delegate Qi provided a recap of the open discussion from the October 2021 meeting. There was discussion regarding a trip to visit the Stanley Black & Decker facility in Connecticut, to be organized by RMI, for interested Workgroup members. There was also a discussion regarding meeting dates and

times during the legislative session. Future meetings dates may need to be adjusted based on legislative hearing schedules. Finally, Mike Galiazzo welcomed members to contact him with any questions about the original intent of the Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup legislation.

**Kirwan CTE Mandate Presentation and Discussion:**

Senator Rosapepe gave a presentation on how the Kirwan School Reform Law invests in work skills over the next ten years. The presentation included information on the 2031 goal of apprenticeship jobs for at least 45% of high school graduates, discussion of the modernization of CTE as related instruction in the high school level of registered apprenticeships, and the creation of a new state CTE Committee to design and oversee this plan. The call to action for the Workgroup members is an opportunity to engage and help the CTE Committee design a plan for the manufacturing sector, and comes to the table early and with data to make specific recommendations.

An open discussion followed in which apprenticeships were discussed at length, including both opportunities and challenges associated with the current model of youth apprenticeships. It was noted that there are labor laws associated with age and certain function within manufacturing (operating heavy equipment as an example) that limit opportunities for youth apprentices. It was also noted that there needs to be better alignment between the CTE/Community College curriculum and the job requirements of manufacturers for both interns and apprenticeships. It was also noted that, as an apprentice, a high schooler is no longer covered by the school's workers comp insurance and the employer's insurance often won't cover those under 18. South Carolina was given as an example where targeted programs at the CTE and community college level are built around very specific anchor employers that very closely align the training and curriculum to the needs of the employer.

**Proposed Scope of Work and Timeline:**

Richard Clinch (JFI) presented a proposed scope of work and timeline for the remainder of the Workgroup's activities. His two lines of research will include 1) a comparative analysis and alignment of Maryland to best practices around the country with a focus on Industry 4.0 adoption support and 2) a manufacturing workforce analysis looking at supply and demand, the talent pipeline, current and evolving skills requirements and the impact of Industry 4.0 on skills needs. The approach had the concurrence of members.

During the discussion of the proposed scope of work, it was suggested that any program recommendations may be best proposed as a pilot program rather than a statewide solution. It was also suggested that the government may not always be the best solution-provider, and recommendations should not simply focus on government solutions. It was also suggested that a private sector or non-profit partner be considered for any type of test bed, de-risking and integration solutions as opposed to a university-based solution.

**Closing Remarks:**

Delegate Qi thanked the members for their valuable insights. She noted that the MD MEP is associated with NIST, and that small businesses can use federal facilities and leverage the labs and technologies – perhaps there is a partnership that could be established to create a test bed through collaboration with federal assets in Maryland.

RMI will evaluate options for a tour of the Stanley Black & Decker facility in Connecticut.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm