



Meeting Minutes
Subcommittee on Economic Development
March 30, 2022
Virtual Meeting
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Member Attendance (6/11)

Donald Fry (chairing for Bel Leong-hong), Mindy Lehman (for Troy Stoval), Mathew Lee, Larry Letow, Steve Pennington (for Marty Rosendale), and Steven Tiller.

Invited participants from local economic development authorities: Ben Birge (Anne Arundel), David Ianucci (Prince George), Christopher Moyer (Howard), Helen Propheter (Frederick), Larry Twele (Howard), and Ben Wu (Montgomery).

Staff Attendance

Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General & Principal Counsel, DoIT)), Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Assigned Staff to the Maryland Cybersecurity Council)

Meeting Summary

1. Mr. Fry noted that Bel Leong-hong was unable to chair the meeting this afternoon and that she had asked him to do so. He welcomed the members from the various economic development authorities who were able to attend in order to brief the subcommittee on how they were supporting cyber- or technology-related development within their jurisdictions. The objective was to see what county initiatives could be models for the State and captured by subcommittee in its recommendations.
2. He called for the minutes of the October 20, 2021, meeting, which were moved and approved.
3. Mr. Fry thanked the representatives from the economic development authorities for their time and invited them to talk about the economic development initiatives in their counties and ways in which the subcommittee might collaborate with them.
 - a. Mr. Wu mentioned that Montgomery County's MOU with the FFRDC in Gaithersburg is being renewed and that there is interest in more engagement in the FFRDC's activities by SMBs. It is interested in input about how it can assist SMBs. Mr. Wu and Dr. von Lehmen agreed to meet offline to obtain more information for the subcommittee's benefit about how it might be able to facilitate this need.
 - b. Mr. Birge commented on (i) the EDA grant application that it had joined with Howard County and the expectations for how that will contribute to cybersecurity workforce development in the State, (ii) the workforce training grants to private companies that the county offers (some of those grants go to cyber firms), (iii) support for companies attempting to move employees through the security

clearance process, and various tax incentives to attract data centers. He noted that his organization meets regularly with the Ft. Meade Alliance.

- c. Ms. Propheter described Tech Frederick, a nonprofit that is business led and focuses on technology-related workforce development. She mentioned that it has been the recipient of many State EARN grants. She noted that the presidents of Frederick Community College, Hood College, and Mt. Saint Mary's College have entered into agreements that would permit a student to earn an AS, BS, and MS in technology fields without leaving the county.

Ms. Propheter also spoke about the data center campus in Frederick County and the critical digital infrastructure regulations that the county was in the process of formulating. She noted that they had learned from similar efforts elsewhere.

- d. Mr. Twele acknowledged the comments about the EDA grant but focused on the need to support cybersecurity-related apprenticeships in SMBs. He suggested that this might be done via State contract provisions.

From the subcommittee, Mr. Letow noted that there are three significant needs in cybersecurity: entry-level professionals, professionals with clearances, and senior managers. Of the three, the last is often overlooked as a need and that ways must be found to support and accelerate the maturation of talent to serve in senior roles.

Mr. Fry asked if any of the guests or subcommittee members had further comments. Hearing none, the meeting with duly adjourned at 2:45 pm.

[Note: These minutes were approved at the May 11, 2023, meeting of the subcommittee.]