STATE OF MARYLAND
DLLR
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

WIOA
WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS
AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

YOUTH SERVICES AND PARTNERSHIPS WORK GROUP

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Purpose and Mission

The work group's mission is to identify "best practices," strategies, and opportunities for enhancement of partnerships to assist in the addressing key concerns for youth during the implementation of WIOA. This group represents various agencies serving youth, including those with significant barriers and older youth (i.e., DJS, DHR-TANF and Foster Care, DORS, MSDE-youth with disabilities, and Job Corp-older youth).

Vision and Responsibilities

The work group will convene members to address strategic and preparedness planning requirements for WIOA. Work group discussions and action will lead to recommendations for policy adoption ensuring the state's readiness to fully implement WIOA by June 30, 2016. The work group will develop an operational meeting schedule that provides sufficient time to address all required work plan elements.

Items to be Addressed

- Identify and address challenges that may be experienced in meeting the new requirement for 75% of youth funds to be allocated to serve Out-of-School Youth (OSY)
- Explore "best practices" for working with OSY who may be disconnected from services, as examining this area will help to address WIOA's change in age range to serve older youth (16-24) as well as the new funding allocation requirement
- Explore current work-based learning experiences utilized by various partners and identify statewide opportunities for future paid and unpaid options for youth, thus addressing WIOA's 20% requirement for youth to participate in work-based learning experiences
- Explore the future and purpose of a "standing committee" and subsequent roles to assist in the provision of services for youth
- Identify how agencies can partner and collaborate to enhance the recruitment/referral process to better prepare youth for their transition from school into adult workforce services, thus assisting with striving to reduce OSY who fall into a "disconnected" classification
- Identify various barriers faced by youth and establish strategies as well as resources to address their needs, thus serving as tools to share as "best practices" for youth service providers
- Review WIOA's five new youth program elements and identify techniques/resources ensuring their inclusion in the provision of services
- Explore programs (educational, vocational, and employment) that have experienced "successful outcomes" when serving populations of youth with barriers (i.e., foster care, youth with disabilities, homeless, parenting, etc.) and identify guidelines for "best practices" for service providers throughout the state

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