

**Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force**  
**Subcommittee for Workforce Development and Education**

4.30 p.m., July 31, 2018  
Columbia / Ellicott Room  
George Howard Building

1. Attending: Linda Gilmore, Maddy Halbach, Jason Jannati, Hina Naseem, and Betty Noble. Also in attendance: Phyllis Madachy, Task Force co-chair, and Jeff Meyers, Council staff.
2. Due to a lack of quorum, approval of the minutes was postponed.
3. Minah Woo, Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Howard Community College, briefed the subcommittee. Minah's presentation is posted on the Task Force web site. See <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForceDocs>. HCC's enrollment has mostly held steady over the last several years while its peer institutions have shown declines. HCC has a diverse population consisting of those wishing to transfer to 4-year institutions, those seeking vocational skills or credentials, and those seeking personal enrichment. HCC has special programs for those with limited English proficiency and seeks to work with international students who already have professional training elsewhere but need local credentials. HCC has extensive outreach to immigrant and minority populations and works with FIRN and HCPSS. HCC notes that a number of individuals are unable to complete their training, particularly in specialized technical areas, because of a lack of funding or difficulties with transportation. HCC is also concerned with the challenges involved in moving the currently employed to higher-level and better paying jobs. HCC would like to expand programs similar to the 2 that now target international students, namely the medical translator program and the bilingual banking teller program.
4. Betty suggested that, in terms of recommendations, the subcommittee should consider what is critical and not yet done and what is critical but not being done well enough.

5. The subcommittee discussed concepts that should be used to develop recommendations. One recurring theme is the need to enhance partnerships and sharing of information, particularly in a diverse County with numerous organizations. Maddy thought that County grants and purchasing expenditures should include requirements related to community outreach and diversity with the aim of improving cultural integration. Many immigrants function only within their own insular immigrant communities. Betty suggested that the issue of the under-employed needs attention. Many residents are in jobs that pay low wages and some of these residents have notable professional training or experience abroad that is not recognized here. The subcommittee recognizes that barriers exist: need for child care, lack of transportation, limited English proficiency, etc. Additionally, the special needs of veterans and the disabled need to be addressed. The subcommittee also believes that there is a significant need for more coordination among institutions and more effective outreach to targeted populations about the services already available.
6. The meeting broke up at 6:35 p.m.