PRESENT
Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Danny DeMarinis (URP), Sandra Edwards (CC OED Manager), Bruce England (SWN), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Michael Lara (Northrop Grumman), Dr. Jeffrey Lawson (CCPS), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism Manager), Morgan Miller (CCPL), Chris Moyer (CC OED Director), Maureen O'Shea (CC Agribusiness Coordinator), Robert Palsgrove (WSFS), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Assoc.), Dr. Carl Roberts (BDC), Richard Starr (CC OED Coordinator), Dr. Rich Szumel (Union Hospital), Mike Travers (Cecil Dancenter)

ABSENT
Joe DiNunzio (Artesian Water), Bob Meffley (CC Council)

GUESTS
Debbie Brown (CC Chamber of Commerce), Scott Flanigan (CC DPW), Alan McCarthy (CC Executive), Sharon Pelham (APGFCU), Brigitte Peters (MD Dept. of Commerce), Jack Schammel (TEDCO), Alan Sexton (SWN), Scott Sturgill (Quest End Capital), Telephone Numbers but no ID’s

Call to Order & Welcome – Mike Ratchford
- Meeting called to order at 8:00 am
- Minutes from March 4, 2020 meeting approved.

Director’s Report – Chris Moyer
- Cecil County Unemployment -- 4,000+ filed claims, ≈ 8% of County; lowest in State of MD
- Businesses creating jobs during this time: e-commerce, food distribution (Kehe, Medline, Smithfield, IKEA, Amazon); collectively over 1,000 jobs
- Office of Economic Development (OED) reaching out to businesses via conference calls, virtual town halls, and Small Business Grant program

A presentation COVID-19 in Cecil County was given by Michelle Lloyd, Deputy Director, Dept. of Emergency Services (DES)
- Virus came out of China – Starting watching it December 2019
- Once in US – preparation activities:
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – very hard to get
  - Best methods – washing hands, do not put hands to face
  - Along with CC Health Department, educating people/businesses on what it is and how to protect themselves
  - It is NOT THE FLU! Infection process different – very deadly; long-term effects
- DES not ready to plan for recovery - following President’s and Governor’s guidance
  - Working with CC Heath Department, Christiana Care/Union Hospital, MEMA, MD Dept. of Health, etc.
  - Building alternative care site in event needed
  - Convalescent site – isolated patients who have tested positive but can’t go home yet
• Reopening will be based on criteria:
  ▪ Number of cases must go down not up, number of ICU admissions
  ▪ Need adequate supply of PPE – shortage from people hoarding and price gauging
  ▪ Need adequate testing – test kits being acquired from Korea – waiting for State Plan from Governor's office

Union Hospital – Update from Dr. Rich Szumel
• Hospital doing well but constant concern for outbreaks at nursing homes
  ▪ Most COVID patients to date have not required mechanical ventilation, 5-15 hospitalizations over past couple weeks
• Keeping eye on poultry and other farming industries
• Coordination across State, closely coordinating with Newark campuses (seeing more non-COVID patients)
• PPE manageable given current COVID population
• NOT performing elective surgeries yet (backlog of 200+) -- Governor must allow
• Have developed multiple phases of a “surge plan”
• Union can handle 15 COVID patients at a time; if more, ventilators and staffing become issue
• Alternative care sites: Have two tents on site (medical/surgical) – can handle 20 patients
• Concern will be staffing, if staff becomes ill
• COVID patients to date have been 65+ with other health issues; youngest was 18
• COVID can cause Toxic Shock Syndrome in children, Strokes in 30-40 year olds, Pneumonia
• Need more scientific data on antibodies making people less susceptible long term
• Morale good but behavioral health issues will be lasting: burn out, emotional (seeing loved ones dying alone)

Subcommittee Reports:
Small Business Community – Mike Travers
• Need to reopen – get back to work
• Concern for litigation issues once businesses reopen

Workforce Update – Bruce England
• Uptick on unemployment claims – regionally 20,000+ people have filed for unemployment in last 4-6 weeks, but see numbers going down last 2-3 weeks
• Still have businesses hiring and looking for workers but challenge on supply side due to willingness to go back to work and enhanced unemployment benefits

Education Update (Cecil College) – Dr. Mary Bolt
• All classes online; summer classes online; will have virtual graduation
• Met criteria in national accreditation – final ruling on June 1
• Creating new Biomedical program, partnering with Jefferson University and Pennsylvania community colleges

Education Update (Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS)) – Dr. Jeff Lawson
• Challenge of community access to wireless connection and providing meals for students
• Schools supposed to open May 15th unless directed otherwise
• Have 3 different scenarios for graduation if schools do not reopen – traditional, drive-in, virtual
County Executive - Dr. Alan McCarthy
- Thank you to first responders, essential workers, W.L. Gore (Mike Ratchford) for providing a facility for service protection
- Will reopen County as soon as safe to do so
- Signed COVID relief bill to add funding for Social Services, County, CCPS, and fire companies

MD Dept. of Commerce – Brigitte Peters
- Relief funding going out; had 30,000+ applications; working with counties in review process

Summary – Chris Moyer / Mike Ratchford
- Thank You to entire community: first responders, front-line workers, small businesses trying to stay alive, library, team at OED, etc.
- The report will be made available via OED website.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Our next EDC meeting will be a Virtual Meeting on June 3, 2020 at 8:00 am. Details to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel
Administrative Assistant