

**Workforce Development Board, Inc. Meeting
of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties – Area 17**

July 20, 2021

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00 am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Roger Beltz, Jim Burgham, John Dance, Deann Davis, David Deibel, John Dyce, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Joe Fiumara, LaTasha Johnson, Jim Klingensmith, Susie Kooser, Joyce Loychik for Joe Caruso, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, Christine Miller for Art Daly, William Moore, Danielle Mulligan for Lamont English, Rakia Naze, Julie Needs, Mark Nicaastro, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Troy Rhoades, Julie Rupert, Holly Swartz, and Sharon Woodberry.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Chuck Adkins, Ralph Blanco, Sarah Boyarko, Dominic Donofrio, James Ford, Rick Fryda, Matthew Golladay, Bryan Higgins, Steve Kiraly, Audrey Morales, Erich Offenburg, and Arisha Williams.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

MCTA Staff Present: Cyndy Bresnahan, Barbara Bush, Lynn Esposito, Jack Hile, Gloria Mathews, and Carol Ramsay-Loomis.

Guests: Megan Cowden (CCDJFS) and AJ Sumell (YSU).

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05am after verification of a quorum. Holly Swartz with Hitch-Hiker Manufacturing/Personal Protected LLC and LaMont R. English with the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority were recognized as new members.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.
Motion made by: Jim Burgham
Seconded by: Mark Nicaastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Election of the Area 17 WDB Vice-Chair

The election for the 2021-22 Area 17 WDB officers was held last year during the October meeting. David Hughes was elected as the Vice-Chair, however, he has since resigned from the Board. Based on the Board's bylaws, if a permanent vacancy occurs during the term of the Vice-Chair, an election will be held to fill the unexpired term of office. Nominations for Vice-Chair were accepted from June 14th – July 2nd, and one nomination was accepted, which was by Mark Nicaastro.

Motion: To accept the nomination of Mark Nicaastro (Farmers National Bank) as the Area 17 WDB Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term, which ends December 31, 2022.
Motion made by: Deann Davis
Seconded by: Jim Burgham
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY20 Financial Report through June 30, 2021, was provided for review. The amount remaining available for customers is mostly CCMEP TANF funds and WIOA Youth funds. With the pandemic and restrictions during the past year, outreach and service delivery was difficult to provide to this population. Area 17 also received an additional \$1 million during PY19 which allowed the area to carry-in more PY19 funds to be spent during the PY20 year. Information regarding PY21 WIOA allocations will be provided during the Director's report.

Balanced Scorecard

The 4th Quarter PY20 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Out of the 11 active measures, 5 have met or exceeded the year-to-date target, 2 measures were within 10% of the year-to-date target, and 4 measures (# of new adults in WIOA registered services, # of dislocated workers in WIOA registered services, # of youth with new CCMEP IOPs, and PY20 WIOA funds spent &/or obligated) were not on target.

The number of new adults and dislocated workers in WIOA registered services is mostly down due to customers' uncertainty about completing eligibility and service appointments virtually. Now that the OMJ centers are open, more customers are coming in and seeking services.

The number of youth with new CCMEP IOPs is down due to the limited outreach that was able to be done over the past year, which led to the inability to connect with youth and parents to explain the benefits of CCMEP services.

Expenditures and obligations of PY20 WIOA funds remained behind target due to the higher carry-in of PY19 funds as well as the allocations received for special grants which have specific deadlines and must be spent first.

Program Operator Report

The 4th Quarter PY20 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) Operator's Report was reviewed. 28% of new training enrollments were in OJTs. Both employers and job seekers found OJTs very beneficial during the pandemic as it helped meet the employment needs of both employers and job seekers in a quick manner. For PY20, the total of new training enrollments was 462, which is consistent to the past few years.

The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program was previously administered by the State and has been transferred to local staff to administer in the area. The primary purpose of this change is to provide the RESEA participants with seamless access to WIOA and other OMJ partner services in order to reenter the workforce more quickly. Since RESEA started in March, 77 participants, which includes both counties, have been assessed. Referrals to services will be tracked to determine what services were offered and utilized.

Area 17 OMJ centers officially reopened under normal operations on June 1st. A media tour was held to showcase the new Boardman facility and to inform the public about the services available. To date, 80% of services are in person; in April, 52% of services were in person. Many of the customers coming in are refiling their unemployment claims to continue benefits. Most of the OMJ partners are back onsite; some are waiting on further guidance for a return date.

Director's Report

PY19 Performance – The unadjusted PY19 WIOA performance report was issued last fall, with the expectation that the adjusted report would be available in the spring. After review, the State determined that it would not apply the statistical adjustment model to PY19 performance measures and the report received last fall would be considered final.

Among the eight adult and dislocated workers performance measures, four were met and four were exceeded. Out of the three youth performance measures, one was met and two were exceeded. Three

baseline measures are also in place, and these measures will become active when adequate data has been collected.

PY21 WIOA Allocations – For PY20, Area 17 will experience a 21.8% reduction in WIOA funding. Ohio received less funding overall, and given the higher unemployment rates in all 88 counties, the dislocated worker funding was allocated to more areas this year compared to last year. Operations are not expected to be affected, however, the impact of the pandemic on permanent job loss is still undetermined. Funding levels will be monitored, and additional funding opportunities will be researched and pursued as appropriate.

Ohio To Work – Area 17 will be participating in the Ohio To Work initiative which is being led by JobsOhio and was piloted in Cuyahoga County last year. The focus of Ohio To Work Ohio To Work is to provide career coaching, assist with employer engagement, provide tech-enabled tools, assist with marketing resources, and offer reskilling funds that can complement WIOA funding. This initiative will involve several of the local workforce development partners in the area, and the Regional Chamber will serve as the coordinating partner. JobsOhio has less restrictions on its funding, which can be used for marketing purposes. A new career assessment and interest tool has also been introduced to partners, which can interface with the State’s new case management tool. More details regarding how the initiative will be implemented are still needed, but efforts will be made to integrate it into the current OMJ service delivery process.

Regional and Local Plan – The East Ohio Workforce Development Region, which is comprised of Area 17, Area 6 (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties), and Area 18 (Trumbull County) developed a regional plan, along with local plans for each workforce area. The plans were submitted to the State and have been approved. The plans are effective through June 30, 2025.

RETAIN Grant – Phase 1 of the RETAIN grant, which focused on creating a referral system, similar to BWC, for those who are injured off the job and assist them back to work more quickly, ended March 31, 2021. The role of the workforce system during this pilot project was to inform and engage employers about this opportunity, as well as help individuals who were not able to return to their original job seek other employment. The State was notified that it was approved to participate in Phase 2 of the RETAIN grant and will receive \$18.8 million. Phase 1 of the grant only involved Mahoning and Trumbull counties, however, Phase 2 will also include the Cincinnati and Toledo areas. More details about Phase 2 will be discussed in August with the intentions of beginning on October 1st and extend through 2025.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

Compass – Joyce Loychik has transferred to the role of Employer Outreach Coordinator at Compass. The role seeks to educate employers about employing individuals with disabilities and how their barriers can be managed to enable them to meet performance expectations of the job. Employers who are interested in learning more can contact Joyce to schedule an appointment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35am.