

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.
OF
MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES**

Individuals with Disabilities Committee Meeting
July 13, 2023
9:00am
OhioMeansJobs Center Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Shirley Bowald, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Dawn Haines for Joe Caruso, Jennifer Howe for Matt Golladay, Susie Kooser, Meribeth Noble, and Marcy Patton

Committee Members Absent: Brenda Heidinger, Melissa Maiorano, and Julie Rupert

Adjunct Members: Jack Hile and Carol Ramsay-Loomis

Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak

Guests: Bill Koch, Steve Lyons, Christine Mango-Wilson, and Kristin Wray

Mr. Eskridge, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am after verification of a quorum.

Approval of April 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 26, 2023 meeting minutes as prepared.

Motion made by: Ed Emerick

Seconded by: Meribeth Noble

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

OOD's College-to-Careers Program at YSU (Bill Koch, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and Kristin Wray, Career Development Specialist)

Bill Koch provided an overview of OOD's College-to-Careers program which focuses on OOD participants who are interested in attending college or currently attending college.

The program started in 2019 to increase the credential attainment of OOD participants and further enhance job placement. The intake and eligibility process remains the same for OOD participants; if a participant is uncertain about an occupational goal, a career assessment can be conducted, along with career counseling. Given the additional funding OOD has received, tuition assistance can be provided for this fall semester. Depending on the occupational goal, tuition assistance can also be provided for a master's degree. Rehabilitation technology for participants with physical or learning disabilities, as well as accessibility needs, can also be provided. Job placement assistance can be offered to help a participant find employment while they attend classes, which can be provided by an internal or external job developer. Participants can be any age, and they can either be new or returning students.

Kristin Wray explained that her role as a career development specialist is to help transition college students into career-minded individuals, assist with internships, and work with employers for job placements.

Many career-related resources are available on the OOD website. A career pathways tool kit has been developed, which shows short-term training options, jobs with good starting wages, and the opportunity for growth in the four major industry industries in Ohio. The four major industries are health sciences, human services, information technology, and manufacturing. Pathways are presented under each of the industries with the credential needed to be qualified for a specific job. Soft skills development is also included under the toolkit.

A career development tool kit is also available on the website, which can be used for any jobseeker. Short videos and fact sheets have been created on 17 career development topics. Fact sheets include, but are not limited to cover letters, resumes, social media etiquette, and accommodations and disclosure.

Grant Updates

No grant updates were reported.

Member Updates

Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (CCMHRSB) – As a result of the East Palestine train derailment, CCMHRSB recently took possession of a building, which was purchased by Norfolk Southern, and will open an East Palestine Resiliency Center. The center will offer counseling, chair massages, creative arts, stress management skills, and pet therapy. Various agencies will be present to offer services, and a grant will cover the cost of the services provided.

Guest Invite Ideas

Suggestions for guest speakers can be emailed to Brian Eskridge.

Other Business

No other business was reported.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.