

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

Executive Committee Meeting  
November 16, 2023  
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Rachel Ketterman, Audrey Morales, Mark Nicasastro, and Susie Wickline  
Committee Members Absent: Kelly Darney and Mark Ragozine  
Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak

Deann Davis, WDB Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm after verification of a quorum.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.  
Motion made by: Mark Nicasastro  
Seconded by: Ed Emerick  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**Transfer of WIOA Funding**

Most of the customers seeking funding assistance in Area 17 are Adult-eligible, with very few eligible as dislocated workers, which has been the case over the past few years.

As requested in past years, MCTA would like to transfer WIOA formula funding between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams, to serve the optimal number of customers. Local areas can approve a transfer of funds up to 50%; any transfer over 50% requires local areas to request State approval. The State plans to issue additional Dislocated Worker funding to local areas in January.

Motion: To approve the transfer of up to 100% of the local Area 17 PY22/FY23 and PY23/FY24 formula funding allocation between Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs in compliance with State policy WIOAPL 15-25. If the transfer exceeds 50%, a request will be made to the State to approve such transfer.  
Motion made by: Brian Eskridge  
Seconded by: Rachel Ketterman  
Discussion: Area 17 started the year with nearly 1.4 million in Dislocated Worker funds and plans to transfer approximately \$433,000, which is within the 50% of the funds.

Motion approved.

**WDB Policy Update**

*WDB Program Policy 24 – Limited Funding Priority Selection Policy (WIOA Youth):* This is a new policy which is similar to the priority policy for adult funding. Area 17 has never had a wait list for WIOA Youth funding before this year, and a policy was needed before taking customers off the list. The policy is geared towards the youth participants who are WIOA-eligible only, and taking customers off the wait list will be a first-in, first out process. The policy also takes into consideration the funding balance required by WIOA legislation. Priority guidelines for out-of-school youth and in-school youth were reviewed. Veterans will also receive priority over non-veterans.

Motion: To approve WDB Program Policy 24 as discussed.  
Motion made by: Rachel Ketterman  
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

## **Operations Update**

MCTA held its annual staff in-service day on November 10<sup>th</sup>. This year's training focused on the "big picture" to explain how all departments play a role in serving customers and ensuring they are successful. Staff members are aware that funding is being watched in all areas of the agency.

The WDB staff will be conducting its monitoring at the end of the month. Information being monitored includes eligibility files, fiscal reports, and OJTs. The OMJ operator will also be monitored soon.

## **WDB Meeting Attendance and Evaluation Summary**

Board membership is in compliance with WIOA legislation. Contact has been made with members who have low meeting attendance, and all have indicated that efforts will be made to attend or to send a proxy. Overall, the attendance rate for the October 17<sup>th</sup> WDB meeting was 80%

The meeting evaluation summary was reviewed, and comments regarding virtual meeting were noted again. Discussion regarding hybrid meetings took place, and due to the requirements under Ohio's Sunshine Law, hybrid meetings will not be held. Based on the other comments submitted, members will be reminded that committee reports are in the meeting packets; onboarding materials for employers can be provided; and information about the placement of OMJ customers and OJT testimonials from employers can be shared. Information regarding the cost-of-living index was also requested.

## **Director's Update**

### *Status of Funding*

A continuing resolution was recently passed in Congress to avoid a government shutdown; the continuing resolution is good through February 2, 2024. The appropriations bills in the House and Senate are significantly different, and if they are unable to come to an agreement, an automatic 1% reduction will take effect. WIOA reauthorization is still pending, however, it is expected to be passed sometime next year.

Since Ohio is doing well economically, local areas should expect the same reductions as this past year. A summary of PY23 WIOA and CCMEP TANF funding allocations was provided. Funding projections for the next 3 program years, based on the current rate of reductions, were also provided. WIOA reauthorization can provide some stability, knowing that funding has been appropriated, however, the level of funding received may still be lower than expected. MCTA has minimized costs where possible until more information is available. In addition to instituting priority status for customers, staffing vacancies have gone unfilled for the past year, and MCTA staff will not receive a wage increase for the upcoming year.

## **Subrecipient Risk Assessment**

A subrecipient risk assessment must be completed each year prior to the subrecipient monitoring that is conducted by the WDB staff on behalf of the WDB. This form determines the extent of the monitoring needed for the subrecipient. The completed subrecipient risk assessment form for MCTA was provided for review and discussion. Overall, the ratings have remained essentially the same compared to previous years, which shows MCTA as a low risk subrecipient.

Motion: To approve the subrecipient risk assessment form as completed by WDB staff.  
Motion made by: Ed Emerick  
Seconded by: Mark Nicaastro  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

The WDB staff will be monitoring MCTA as the subrecipient on November 29<sup>th</sup> and as the One-Stop operator on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The contracted youth service providers will be monitored after the first of the year.

**Good of the Order**

*MCDJFS*

The Mahoning County juvenile court has conducted the TANF summer youth program for MCJFS over the past several years, however, that will change next year. Discussions will be held with MCTA to conduct the program.

Social workers are also needed for adult protective services to ensure the elderly are not being exploited or abused.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.