

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.
OF
MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES
Executive Committee Meeting
June 20, 2024
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Kelly Darney, Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Mark Nicastro, and Susie Wickline
Committee Members Absent: Rachel Ketterman, Audrey Morales, 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 Item

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

Financial Update

Local workforce areas received the final notices of award for the WIOA funds that were distributed in Ohio. Area 17 was awarded \$3.2 million, which was the amount previously projected last month. Local areas receive 100% of youth funds on July 1st; areas receive approximately 20% of Adult and Dislocated funds on July 1st, with the remaining funds issued on October 1st. 100% of CCMEP TANF funds are received on October 1st. Although Area 17 is flat-funded for PY24 WIOA allocations, priority status will remain in effect going into the new program year.

Discussions about the FY 2025 budget continue to be held at the federal level. National organizations in support of workforce development are requesting a 3-5% increase in funding levels. The Ohio Workforce Association sent a letter of support on behalf of all local workforce boards in Ohio for the increase in funding levels.

Area 17 was also awarded \$450,000 for its second Justice-Involved Individuals (JII) grant, which is called New Start. The goal is to serve 55 justice-involved individuals, who can be eligible as youth, adult, or dislocated worker. In addition to ITAs, services can also include work experience and OJTs. Business services staff were also incorporated into the grant to work with businesses to consider hiring these individuals. MCTA will also work with Eastern Ohio Corrections Center and Community Corrections Agency for referrals.

Efforts will be made to look at who is currently eligible to be referred to employers for OJTs. PY24 will be the first full program year for the 12-month funding limit for training, which should provide a better opportunity to carry-in more PY24 funds into PY25. Referrals from employers for OJTs are suggested to continue. Wait lists are reviewed on a regular basis to determine how many customers can be funded and to keep cost control measures in place.

Area 17 also received an additional \$139,000 in RESEA funds due to redistribution of funds among areas in the state, and \$50,000 of RETAIN funding was received from Trumbull County. A summary of funding sources and levels will be prepared after year-end reports are completed.

All WDB reports are being reviewed to determine if updates are needed. The fiscal agent report is currently being reviewed internally to determine a better way to define and present the financial information. WIOA reauthorization discussions at the federal level have mentioned a minimum percentage amount that must be spent on training. Although this minimum percentage has not been decided, Area 17 will begin to track the amount of funds spent on training.

WDB Policy Update

WDB Program Policy 2 – Limited Funding Priority Selection (Adult) – Language was added under the definition of basic skills deficiency to include individuals who are unable to speak English at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society.

Language was changed under the policy section to reflect the process for reviewing funding levels and to recommend the enforcement of a wait list for the current program year when needed. Area residency will also be considered for services not already limited by residency.

Motion: To approve the changes to WDB Program Policy 2 as presented.
Motion made by: Mark Nicastro
Seconded by: Ed Emerick
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

OMJ Partner MOU Addendum

Addendum E reflects the removal of Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) as a partner of the Mahoning and Columbiana OMJ centers. The cost-sharing budgets for both centers have been adjusted to avoid cost increases for the remaining partners. This change will take effect July 1, 2024.

Motion: To approve OMJ Partner MOU Addendum E as recommended by the One-Stop Committee.
Motion made by: Brian Eskridge
Seconded by: Mark Nicastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Addendum F shows Jefferson County Educational Service Center (JCESC) replacing Eastern Gateway Community College as the fiscal agent for ASPIRE. 100% of referrals will be made to JCESC for ASPIRE, and they will replace EGCC on the cost-sharing budgets. No cost increase for other partners will be made, and this change will take effect July 1, 2024.

Motion: To approve OMJ Partner MOU Addendum F as presented.
Motion made by: Ed Emerick
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Approval of Operator’s Report

Based on a suggestion received from the April WDB meeting, and feedback received from the May Executive Committee meeting, a revised Operator’s Report was presented for review. Pie charts for the current and previous year, showing the percentages of individuals enrolled in short-term training, long-term training, and OJTs, will be included. Since funding is now limited to 12 months of training, only the planned average cost for short-term training will be reported. The total number of individuals served will continue to be shared, as well as the breakdown of

individuals in registered services and those receiving basic services. The number of individuals who received registered and basic services during the previous year will also be shown for comparison.

Motion: To accept the revised Operator's Report in the format presented.
Motion made by: Brian Eskridge
Seconded by: Mark Nicastro
Discussion: The revised report will be implemented for the new program beginning in October.
Motion approved.

Operator's Update

Proposed PY24 Balanced Scorecard

A PY24 Balanced Scorecard with proposed targets was provided for review. Of the 16 measures, 8 targets remain the same as PY23, and the remaining 8 targets were adjusted based on the customer trends being recognized, changes to policies, entering PY24 in priority status, and level of funding available. Final numbers will be available in July, and additional changes to the measures or proposed targets can be made before the balanced scorecard is presented for approval at the August meeting.

Summer TANF Youth Program

The Summer TANF Youth Program began on June 10th. Approximately 335 participants were placed at roughly 50 worksites throughout Mahoning County.

Director's Update

Funding Levels Update

The Senate is showing an interest in WIOA reauthorization. Hearings are being held to review separate sections of WIOA to assist the Senate's HELP Committee in understanding what is working and what can be improved upon. The Director and President of the Ohio Workforce Association have offered to go to Washington DC to offer their testimony and support for WIOA. Further action is anticipated at the end of the year. Although funding levels are still in question, WIOA reauthorization would provide stability for funding.

WDB Membership

Brenda Linert from the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber has been nominated to the Workforce Development Board. The Regional Chamber serves as the business organization that nominates other business members to the WDB. As the WDB representative, Ms. Linert will prepare nomination letters for any new WDB members seeking appointment to the WDB. Contact was made with RJ Fryan, and he remains interested in serving on the Board.

Area 17 WDB Officer Elections

The election for 2025-2026 Area 17 WDB officers will be held at the October WDB meeting. Nominations will be requested in September.

Letter of Support

A letter of support was requested from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) for its WORC Grant application. The IUPAT has also requested letters from other WDBs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Its application will focus on connecting the WDBs to pre-apprenticeships through an Apprenticeship Navigator Program. The program

would also incorporate a regional sustainable finance hub. No objections were expressed from the Executive Committee, and a letter of support will be prepared and sent.

September Meeting

The Ohio Workforce Association Conference is scheduled for September 19th-20th, which conflicts with the September Executive Committee meeting. A decision to cancel the September 19th meeting will be made at the August meeting.

Good of the Order

No additional items were reported.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.