

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

April 18, 2023

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Ralph Blanco, Megan Cowden for Rachel Ketterman, John Dance, Deann Davis, Dominic Donofrio, Ed Emerick, Joe Fiumara, RJ Fryan, Bryan Higgins, Jennifer Howe for Matt Golladay, Susie Kooser, Marty Loney, Melissa Maiorano, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, Dawn Monteiro for LaMont English, Marilyn Montes, William Moore, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Mark Nicasastro, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Julie Rupert, Scott Satterlee, Jennifer Strank for Brian Eskridge, and Arisha Williams.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Chuck Adkins, Joe Caruso, Arthur Daly, David Deibel, James Ford, Steve Kiraly, Julie Needs, Meribeth Noble, and Erich Offenburg.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

MCTA Staff Present: Cyndy Bresnahan, Barbara Bush, Lynn Esposito, Jack Hile, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, and Leigh Samargia-Pflug.

Guests: Ishmael Brown (Choffin)

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place. New member Marty Loney, UA Local 396 Plumbers & Pipefitters, was also welcomed to the Board.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.
Motion made by: Scott Satterlee
Seconded by: Lori Murphy
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

One-Stop Operator Contract Renewal

As discussed at the January WDB meeting, WDB staff were in the process of monitoring Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA) in its role as the Area 17 One-Stop Operator. The categories reviewed were program facilities, outreach, job seeker services, collaboration, customer data collection, and performance measures and continuous improvement. The results were reviewed at the February WDB Executive Committee, and based on the scores, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that the contract with MCTA be renewed for another year through June 30, 2024.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve the renewal of the One-Stop Operator contract with Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association through June 30, 2024.
Motion made by: Dominic Donofrio
Seconded by: Ed Emerick
Abstention: Susie Kooser
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Regional/Local Plans

A four-year regional and local plan for the East Ohio region was developed in 2021, and the plans are required to be reviewed and updated as needed at the mid-way point. Representatives from the East Ohio region, which is comprised of Area 17, Area 6 (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties), and Area 18 (Trumbull County) created an addendum to depict appropriate revisions to the original plans. Overall, the strategies remain the same, labor market information was changed based on the data provided by the State, and initiatives that have ended or are beginning were updated. The addendum was posted to each area’s website for a 30-day public comment period. No comments were submitted for Area’s 17 and 18; the comment period for Area 6 will close at the end of today. A request was made to allow the WDB Director to make any revisions deemed necessary by the East Ohio Region representatives.

Motion: To authorize the WDB Director to make appropriate revisions to the modification of the regional and local plans after the public comment period is complete and submit the final modification to the State by May 26, 2023.

Motion made by: Marilyn Montes

Seconded by: Scott Satterlee

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY22 Financial Report through March 31, 2023, was provided for review. There is approximately \$3 million left to spend on customers. MCTA experienced a significant increase in Adult-eligible customers seeking training services at the mid-year point. In February, Area 17 requested additional funding from the State and was provided with \$487,000 in Adult funding. Area 17 has also entered priority status which limits who can receive services. If an eligible individual does not meet the criteria for priority, they are added to a wait list. As of yesterday, priority was lifted, but will be reevaluated in a few weeks.

Balanced Scorecard

The 3rd Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Area 17 is currently meeting or exceeding eleven of the measures. Two measures are in progress, which are Line 6 – Total One-Stop Visits and Line 11 – # of Youth with new CCMEP IOPs. The only measure not on target is Line 9 – # of New OJT Participants (PY22), which is partly due to Area 17 going into priority status, and people being able to gain employment without the needing assistance.

At the January WDB meeting, a question on an evaluation form asked about the action plan in place to meet the spending goals on the balanced scorecard. Line Item 12 – PY21 Carry-In Funds Spent shows that all the PY21 funds have been spent; Line Item 13 – PY 22 WIOA Funds Spent and/or Obligated indicates that Area 17 is on track to meet its spending requirements. MCTA’s management team holds monthly strategic planning meetings to review the budget and determine which funding stream has the most funds at the current time. The information is communicated with staff to focus their outreach efforts accordingly.

Program Operator Report

Operator’s Report

The 3rd Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023) Operator’s Report was reviewed. Overall, enrollments are higher than this time last year. Currently, 383 participants are enrolled in training, which is 31 more compared to last year. There are 16 fewer OJTs compared to last year, but short-term and long-term classroom training are higher by 47 this year. The increase in classroom training can be attributed to the JobsOhio initiative and its efforts to reskill individuals. Traffic has increased in the resource rooms at both OMJ centers, as well as at Oak Hill. 200 more customers have visited the OMJ centers compared to this time last year.

In-Demand Jobs

A question submitted on the January WDB meeting evaluation form asked about in-demand skills required to target employment needs. The State has identified in-demand jobs in Ohio, and the skills needed for those occupations. In-demand jobs in Ohio have a salary of \$14.10 or more, annual job growth is higher than the statewide

average, and annual job openings are higher than the statewide average. The information is available on www.ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov.

In-Demand Jobs Week in Ohio is May 1-5, 2023. Information about in-demand jobs will be posted on the Area 17 OMJ social media accounts to encourage individuals to come into the OMJ centers to research various career pathways. MCTA is also participating in the Cheers to Beers and Careers event, which is being hosted by City Machine Technologies and Penguin City Beer on May 3rd, 4pm-7pm, to celebrate National Skilled Trades Day.

Business Advisory Councils (BACs)

In Mahoning County, the upcoming April BAC meeting will focus on parent outreach. Students are hearing the message about the opportunities available in the trades and other career paths, however, more education is needed for the parents. Educational events for the parents are being planned.

In Columbiana County, the BAC is looking to adopt an internship program model that is being done in the Wapakoneta area where traditional students participate in an internship for a half semester. The next BAC meeting will be held in May.

ARIES and CFIS Systems

MCTA recently restructured its MIS department to streamline the intake process. An MIS specialist was promoted to MIS Coordinator to ensure the data being entered into ARIES and CFIS is accurate. The MIS Manager will monitor paperwork and performance on a frequent basis.

Director's Report

Business Resource Network (BRN) Grant

Area 17 was awarded an 18-month BRN grant which will end June 30, 2023. Last week, the State indicated the grant can be extended for another year. An application for the extension must be submitted to the State by May 5th, and it must show a slightly different purpose for how the grant funding will be used. Area 17 will apply for the extension, and a decision is expected to be made by May 26th.

East Palestine

Efforts are being made to work with businesses and individuals in East Palestine that were impacted by the train derailment. Conversations have been held with the State to discuss how assistance can be offered. Business services staff are conducting in-person visits with East Palestine businesses to determine what type of assistance employers feel they need. The Columbiana County OMJ center manager is stationed at The Way Station or the East Palestine Library twice a week to provide individuals with information about services available. Currently, no customers have come into the OMJ centers because of the train derailment.

Presentation: On-the-Job Training

Cyndy Bresnahan, Business Services Manager, and Leigh Samargia-Pflug, Program Services Manager, provided an overview of the On-the-Job Training program offered through MCTA. The program can benefit the employer by reimbursing 50% of a participant's wages, up to \$9,500 and 1,040 hours. The participant must be hired as a permanent, full-time employee at a wage of at least \$13.00/hour. The program assists individuals who need training to earn an income while they learn the needed skills. The program can also help launch their career in an in-demand job. Employers must be in Columbiana or Mahoning County.

An employer interested in participating in the program can contact a business services representative. The employer will complete an OJT checklist, sign an OJT agreement, and an appropriate training plan will be developed for the job. Employers can refer individuals to determine their eligibility for the program, or a recruitment can be held through the OMJ center. The OJT Agreement must be in place before any services can be considered for reimbursement. The training plan can be modified but there must be a 7-day notice before changes can take effect. Customers must bring in the required documentation to determine eligibility. All participants receiving services must be registered at www.OhioMeansJobs.com. If eligible, a career consultant will assess their skills with the training plan.

Meeting Evaluation

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

MYCAP – MYCAP is hiring assessors and inspectors for its home weatherization program. Applicants must be good at math. The community action programs across the state are having a difficult time filling these positions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50am.