

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

July 16, 2024

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Tom Andrews, Theresa Berkenyi for Joe Caruso, Kim Berry, Ralph Blanco, Tyler Chaboudy, Jeremy Corbisello, Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, Joe Fiumara, James Ford, John Frankovitch, RJ Fryan, Bryan Higgins, Brenda Linert, Marty Loney, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, William Moore, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Julie Needs, Mark Nicaastro, Meribeth Noble, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Julie Rupert, Puella Stoddard for LaMont English, Jennifer Strank for Brian Eskridge, Marion Sweely, Susan Tracy for Jason Schnabl, and Susie Wickline.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Art Daly, Matt Golladay, Cody Hilliard, Rachel Ketterman, Randy Swogger, and Arisha Williams.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

MCTA Staff Present: Cyndy Bresnahan, Barb Bush, and Lynn Esposito.

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place. New WDB members Tom Andrews (CAA of Columbiana County), Tyler Chaboudy (1Coat Industrial Coatings), Jeremy Corbisello (CCCTC), Brenda Linert (Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber), and Marion Sweely (Enertech Electrical, Inc.) were welcomed to the Board.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

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

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY23 Financial Report through June 30, 2024, was provided for review. The actual expense column only goes to June 30, 2024. The column for PY24/PY25 program obligations goes until June 30, 2026. The last column provides a total of PY23 actual expenses and PY24/PY25 program obligations, which is \$7.3 million.

Balanced Scorecard

The 4th Quarter PY23 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Out of the 16 measures, 11 met or exceeded the established targets; 5 measures were not on target. The measures not on target include Line 7 – Total New One-Stop Visits, Line 9 – # of new PY23 OJT Participants, Line 13 – # of new PY23 CCMEP Youth IOPs, Line 15 – PY23 WIOA Funds Spent and/or Obligated, and Line 16 – % of One-Stop Partners Contributing to Cost Share. Aside from Line 16, the measures did not meet their targets due to the funding restrictions in place. For Line 16, partners with outstanding balances are expected to pay in full.

Program Operator Report

Operator's Report

The 4th Quarter PY23 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) Operator's Report was reviewed. During this time, 291 individuals were enrolled in training services, which is approximately a 37% decrease compared to last year. The planned average cost per participant is comparable to last year. A suggestion was made at the April WDB meeting to include the previous year's data as a comparison. A revised format was approved by the Executive Committee, and it will start being used at the October meeting.

Mahoning County TANF Youth Summer Program

The Mahoning County TANF youth summer program began on June 10th and is progressing well. The program budget was recently amended to serve 360 TANF youth participants at approximately 30 hours per week. August 2nd will be the last day of the program; the program may be extended depending on the amount of remaining funds.

New Start – Justice Involved Individuals (JII) Grant

The State awarded MCTA \$450,000 under another special grant, known as the New Start – JII Grant, to continue serving justice-involved individuals. Under this grant, 55 individuals will be served, and they can be eligible as an adult, dislocated worker, or youth. Work experience will also be provided, and the business services will offer placement services for those who completed training under the grant.

Results from the first JII Grant were reviewed. For the first JII Grant, Area 17 received 184,500 during PY23. Under the initial grant, individuals must have been eligible as an adult who has been involved in the court system, regardless of sentencing or incarceration. The goal was to provide training services to 25 individuals; overall, 33 individuals received training services. Wages earned after training range from \$17.75 – \$30.00 per hour.

Director's Report

Status of Funding

Since the last meeting, Area 17 received its PY24 WIOA allocations from the State, and it remained the amount that was initially projected at \$3.2 million. It is also anticipated that Area 17 will receive \$3 million in CCMEP TANF funding on October 1st. MCTA has focused on revising processes to do more with less. Priority status will remain in place, unencumbrances will be monitored closely, and wait lists will be reviewed at least every two weeks. Further adjustments to the budget will be made if new information warrants it.

WIOA Reauthorization

HR6655 – A Stronger Workforce for America Act was passed by the House of Representatives and forwarded to the Senate for consideration. The Senate has not taken action on HR6655 and is drafting its own proposal. At this time, it is expected that WIOA reauthorization will not take place until after the November election. Area 17 will continue moving forward based on the information that is provided by the State.

Election for Area 17 WDB Officers

Elections for the 2025-2026 Area 17 WDB Officers will be held at the October WDB meeting. Nominations will be requested in September. The WDB Chair and Vice-Chair must be WDB business members; WDB Secretary can be any WDB member.

WDB Member Presentations

On the last meeting evaluation, a suggestion was made for WDB members to present information about their companies/agencies at the WDB meetings. If anyone is interested in presenting, they can contact Mary Ann Kochalko or Sharlene Senediak.

Unemployment Insurance Updates

The Mahoning County OMJ center participated in a 3-month pilot program with the Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations (OUIO). The pilot program placed an ODJFS adjudicator in the center one day a week to address issues individuals were having with their claims. The program was very successful and will be in place for an extended time. The program will not be expanded into additional counties, but Columbiana County customers have been referred to the Mahoning County OMJ center for assistance.

Since the pandemic, the State has focused on improving the unemployment insurance system. One of the tools developed provides the initial weekly claims made by industry, county, and by occupation group. The local WDBs can decide the best way to utilize the report for customers.

The State is also making efforts to enhance the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program, which selects claimants who are unlikely to return to work prior to exhausting their benefits and are provided one-on-one assistance. Moving forward, selected RESEA individuals will be put into one of three groups – no RESEA services will be provided, RESEA services will be provided as usual, or RESEA services will be provided with additional Reemployment Assistance and Career Help (REACH) services.

Single Audit

A Single Audit was recently completed for MCTA, and there were no findings. A representative from the Auditor of State's office visited MCTA and presented the fiscal department with the Ohio Auditor of State Award for its financial reporting.

Meeting Evaluation

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

All Trades Expo

The All-Trades Expo will be held September 17-19, 2024, at the Canfield Fairgrounds. Approximately 5,200 middle school and high school students attended last year.

Regional Chamber

The Regional Chamber and Goodwill Industries are partnering together to conduct a community needs assessment. Surveys and focus groups will be conducted on the workforce to understand why some people are not participating in the job market. Information collected will be compiled and roundtable discussions will be held to discuss solutions to the barriers identified.

TechCred Program

The current round of the TechCred program is still open. Applications from businesses will be taken through July 31, 2024.

CCCTC

An invitation was extended to WDB members to visit CCCTC after the school year begins. Members can observe any high school programs or adult education programs being offered. CCCTC also hosts an increasingly popular career fair the second Thursday in March, which members can attend for hiring needs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40am.