

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

Youth Committee Meeting  
September 7, 2023  
3:00pm  
YJATC Office

Committee Members Present: Ed Emerick, Michelle Fitzsimmons, and Scott Satterlee  
Committee Members Absent: Joe Caruso, Marilyn Montes, Julie Needs, and Meribeth Noble  
Board Staff: Sharlene Senediak  
CCMEP Lead Agency Staff: Melissa Alfano, Leigh Samargia-Pflug, Angela Vollberg, and Susie Wickline

Ed Emerick, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05pm, and a quorum was established.

**Approve June 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: To approve the June 1, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.  
Motion made by: Scott Satterlee  
Seconded by: Michelle Fitzsimmons  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule**

Motion: To approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented.  
Motion made by: Scott Satterlee  
Seconded by: Michelle Fitzsimmons  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**Performance Update**

The preliminary unadjusted performance results for PY22 were reported. Based on these initial results, Area 17 met or exceeded the success level for most rates. Area 17 is still working with the State to address some data issues; there was a data migration problem when transferring data to ARIES which has an impact on performance. Area 17 staff reviewed the hard files and verified that all the measures were met.

**Review of CCMEP Activity Report**

The CCMEP Activity Report (July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023) was provided and reviewed. Total active CCMEP participants is 273; this total has decreased compared to this time last year due to funding restrictions. Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, Area 17 has had the following number of youth in services: 8 new enrollments, 5 in work readiness, 19 in subsidized work experience, 27 in high school or high school equivalency program, 2 attained their high school diploma or equivalency, 18 in post-secondary training, 7 completed training, and 27 are in unsubsidized employment. More youth are embracing post-secondary training and realizing they need to do something after high school. Placements in unsubsidized employment have also been increasing since the pandemic.

**Policy Update**

An updated WDB Program Policy 19 – *Youth Incentives* was recently approved at the August 17<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting. Changes include adding military enlistment as employment for an incentive, clarifying what credentials, licenses, and certificates are eligible for incentives, clarifying the incentive for the work readiness program, and adding a maximum incentive amount for leadership and financial literacy

activities. The changes provide uniformity of incentives across the programs offered by the multiple youth services providers.

### **Outreach Strategy**

The outreach strategy continues to focus on out-of-school youth who are TANF-eligible. In general, there has been an increase in referrals. There is a waitlist for youth who are only WIOA-eligible. Billboards and flyers have also been printed in Spanish.

For PY22, Area 17 will only be sending back \$250,000 in CCMEP TANF funds. This is the lowest amount that has been sent back.

### **Discussion: Participant Challenges and Accomplishments After Graduation/County Updates/Success Stories**

An MCTA participant graduated from high school and was successful – worked two jobs and bought a car. However, the participant experienced challenges with drugs, which led to a suspended license, was in jail, lost her jobs, and became homeless. The participant reached out to MCTA for assistance. The participant is pregnant and waiting to enter a rehabilitation facility. She is TANF-eligible and is receiving mentoring services. Eventually, efforts will be made to find stable housing for her and to have the drug charges dropped.

A participant that attended CCCTC was struggling to graduate, but he received a massive amount of tutoring through MCTA, graduated, and is working. The participant was placed in follow-up and is still receiving mentoring services.

Another participant had a discrepancy with the number of hours he needed to graduate. With MCTA's help, he completed the necessary hours, graduated, and is working at the company where his father works.

A Spanish-speaking participant was basic skills deficient and only completed the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She was diagnosed with depression and anxiety, has a child with another one on the way. She was in the program for a while, sanctioned from JFS, and suffered an illness, however, she eventually graduated from high school, and is now interested in becoming a police officer.

Two youth, who were friends, enrolled into CCMEP together and graduated from AUS at the same time. They both received IT certificates and will be moving into job readiness services.

An out-of-state participant, with a child, had a domestic issue with her boyfriend. He eventually left, and she will be graduating with a culinary certificate.

A participant was on house arrest, but was able to complete her nutrition class successfully. She needs childcare, and when it is in place, she will enter work experience.

The transgender population experiences a lot of anxiety issues related to not being accepted. Kids Zone took in a transgender participant to pick out new wardrobe, and the participant was able to complete work experience there.

### **Member Updates/Other Business**

*YJATC* – Classes recently started with 71 students.

*CCCTC* – It is the third week of classes, and most programs are full. People are beginning to see the career and technical centers as a viable option for careers.

*Next Meeting* – The next Youth Committee is scheduled for December 7, 2023, at 3pm.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.