

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.**

**OF**

**MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES**

One-Stop Committee Meeting

June 10, 2021

8:00 am

Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Tom Andrews, Theresa Berkenyi, Shirley Bowald, Cyndy Bresnahan, Megan Cowden, Luann Dunham, Lynn Esposito, James Ford, Melonie Harrell, Bryan Higgins, Jack Hile, LaTasha Johnson-Saulsberry, Mary Ann Kochalko, Susie Kooser, Gloria Mathews, Lauren Mathews, Mary Mihalopoulos, Christina Miller, William Moore, Lori Murphy, Mark Nicastro, Jennifer Pancake, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, Sharlene Senediak, Kathy Steele, Penny Traina, Arisha Williams, Cathy Williams, and Patty Wilms.

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Mark Nicastro chaired the meeting on behalf of Kelly Darney, One-Stop Committee Chair. The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as presented.  
Motion made by: James Ford  
Seconded by: Shirley Bowald  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**Old Business**

**Budget to Actual Report**

For the PY20 budget, both OhioMeansJobs centers are expected to be fully spent by June 30, 2021. Mahoning County has \$8,408.36 left to spend; Columbiana County has \$4,853.40 left to spend. The PY21 budgets were also provided and they remain the same as PY20. New invoices for PY21 will be issued in September/October. If partners have any changes to their billing contact information, they were asked to send the updated information to Barbara Bush at [bbush@mctworkforce.org](mailto:bbush@mctworkforce.org).

**New Business**

**Partner MOU**

After the March meeting, all partner signatures were collected for the one-year MOU extension through June 30, 2022, and it has been posted under the Partner tab on [www.onestopohio.org](http://www.onestopohio.org).

Additional changes have taken place since the extension was signed. The following addendums were presented and explained.

*Columbiana County*

Addendum E is for the withdrawal of Columbiana Metropolitan Housing Authority effective June 30, 2021. Addendum F indicates that the Columbiana County Economic Development and the Columbiana County Port Authority have merged to form the Columbiana County Economic Development Consortium and will be a single, equal access partner effective July 1, 2021. There will be no escalation in cost to partners as a result of these addendums other than for Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association.

Motion: To recommend to the Board to accept Addendum E and Addendum F as presented.  
Motion made by: Shirley Bowald  
Seconded by: Tom Andrews  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

## *Mahoning County*

Addendum G indicates the request from Choffin Career & Technical Center to join as a required partner at .2 FTE effective July 1, 2021. Addendum H denotes the request from Academy of Urban Scholars to join as an equal access partner effective July 1, 2021. Addendum I represents the request from Youngstown State University to join as an equal access partner effective July 1, 2021. There will no escalation in cost to partners as a result of these addendums.

Motion: To recommend to the Board to accept Addendum G, Addendum H, and Addendum I as presented.

Motion made by: Lori Murphy

Seconded by: James Ford

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

## **Technology and Facility Report**

From January 2021 through March 10, 2021, virtual services represented 90% of services offered; from March 11, 2021 through June 9, 2021, virtual and in-person services are now approximately an even split. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the centers opened under normal operations, and the upward trend with in-person services is expected to continue. Customers have been coming to the center for eligibility appointments, job search, to file initial and subsequent UI claims, and by referral from OMJ partners.

In Columbiana County, the ODJFS DVOP representative is expected to return June 21<sup>st</sup> and will work a hybrid schedule. The status of other partners returning to the center is still being determined.

In Mahoning County, a media tour was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> to promote the new space and available services to the public. The Business Journal, WFMJ, and WKBN were in attendance. Partners can request copies of the media recording from Gloria Mathews.

Some partners have also returned to the center in Mahoning County. Job Corps has been onsite but continues to offer services only virtually. Aspire has been working onsite since March 17<sup>th</sup>, two days a week. ODJFS staff will be returning June 21<sup>st</sup> on a hybrid schedule. Customers are coming in for job search assistance, UI claims, and tuition assistance. More customer traffic is expected towards the end of the month since the additional UI benefits provided in response to the pandemic will be ending June 26<sup>th</sup>, and more individuals will be searching for employment.

Area 17 staff began administering the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) back in March. In the beginning, many people who were contacted for the program were those affected by fraudulent claims. The State established participant goals for each county. The goal for Mahoning County is 10 participants per week; Columbiana County is 8 per week. Currently, there is a limited number of legitimate claimants available to contact. To date, 211 participants were selected for the quarter; 65 completed an initial appointment and have a second appointment scheduled; 34 did not attend the initial appoint, and; 74 were removed from the system or returned to work. Virtual meetings between management staff and State are being held once a month to discuss any questions or concerns as the program moves forward.

Some workshops are now being offered onsite at the OMJ centers, and onsite recruitments will also start in the near future.

Partners are also welcome to visit the center at anytime for a tour of the new Boardman facility.

## **WDB Director's Update**

Appreciation was extended to the partners for their participation in the virtual meetings over the past year. The intention is to meet in-person for the September meeting.

The Office of Workforce Development continues to monitor the OMJ center activity across the State. Currently, 31 counties are providing in-person services by appointment only, 4 are only providing virtual services, and 53 are open to the public.

The State is working to improve its unemployment system and is focusing primarily on three operational goals: fraud prevention, resolving the backlog of non-fraudulent claims, and reducing call center wait times. Over the last week, 212,000 continued unemployment claims were submitted, and nearly 14,000 initial unemployment claims were filed; of those initial claims, 329 were from Mahoning and Columbian counties, which is slightly higher

than some other counties in the state. In the last 63 weeks, which was the start of the pandemic, 3.5 million unemployment claims were filed, which is more than the combined total of claims between 2013-2019. The focus is now turning to helping claimants become reemployed. Recruitments are being scheduled with employers, and outreach is being conducted through the Business Resource Network (BRN).

Workforce areas were notified of their PY21 WIOA allocations, and Area 17 will experience a 21.8% decrease in funding levels compared to PY20. Since the demand for services is expected to increase moving forward, efforts will be made to apply for additional funding opportunities when appropriate.

Area 17 has utilized the Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant over the past two years to serve individuals who have been impacted by the opioid crisis. The grant was originally scheduled to end March 31, 2021, however, has since been extended for another year. The original goals established under the grant were met by providing 90 individuals with career services, with 50 of those individuals receiving training services.

Area 17 will be participating in an initiative being led by Jobs Ohio called Ohio To Work. The initiative recognizes that there are organizations already in place to help employers and displaced workers and will focus on long-term career opportunities in specific, in-demand industries. The initiative was piloted last year in Cleveland and is expected to roll-out in the Mahoning Valley within the next 2-3 months.

### **Partner Updates**

*The Connection* – *The Connection* will be published again beginning in July. If partners would like to contribute any material, it can be sent to Gloria Mathews at [gloria@onestopohio.org](mailto:gloria@onestopohio.org).

*CCDJFS* – Luann Dunham with CCDJFS will be retiring on July 1, 2021. Megan Cowden was introduced, and will be her replacement.

*Job Corps* – Effective May 25<sup>th</sup>, virtual enrollments have started, with 12 students enrolled every two weeks. After 60 days, the students will report to the center.

*CAA of Columbiana County* – The CAA of Columbiana County will host a Day of Giving on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Columbiana County Fairgrounds. Various personal items will be provided to 500 individuals. The Treasury Department has issued \$465 million to community action agencies across Ohio for rent and utility assistance. Columbiana County is expected to receive \$3 million. MYCAP in Mahoning County is also a recipient of the funding. Funding was previously issued and there has been a consistent need for the funds. Funding is expected to be made available through 2023. Efforts are also being made to establish a partnership with the Ohio Finance Agency to provide assistance to individuals having difficulty paying their mortgages. OMJ partners were encouraged to refer their clients to CAA if assistance is needed.

*Next Meeting* – The next One-Stop Committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35am.