

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

October 19, 2021

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00 am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Chuck Adkins, Roger Beltz, Ralph Blanco, Jim Burgham, Megan Cowden for Rachel Ketterman, Art Daly, John Dance, Deann Davis, David Deibel, Dominic Donofrio, John Dyce, Ed Emerick, Joe Fiumara, Susie Kooser, Melissa Maiorano, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, Dawn Monteiro for LaMont English, William Moore, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Julie Needs, Mark Nicastro, Erich Offenburg, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Mark Ragozine, Nancy Romeo for Joe Caruso, Julie Rupert, Jennifer Strank for Brian Eskridge, Arisha Williams, and Sharon Woodberry.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

James Ford, Rick Fryda, Matthew Golladay, Bryan Higgins, LaTasha Johnson, Steve Kiraly, Jim Klingensmith, Rakia Naze, Troy Rhoades, and Holly Swartz.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

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

Guests: Christina Miller (EGCC-Aspire), AJ Sumell (YSU), and Kristen Womeldorff (ODJFS).

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05am after verification of a quorum. Melissa Maiorano with the Regional Chamber was recognized as a new member.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.
Motion made by: Jim Burgham
Seconded by: Mark Ragozine
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Election of Area 17 WDB Secretary

At the July meeting, Mark Nicastro filled the WDB Vice-Chair office, which made the WDB Secretary office vacant. Nominations for WDB Secretary were requested, and two nominations were accepted – Julie Needs with the SOD Center and Mark Ragozine with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. Ballots were provided and collected from the WDB members present at the meeting. Upon the ballot count, Mark Ragozine received more votes.

Motion: To accept Mark Ragozine as the Area 17 WDB Secretary for the remainder of the term, which ends December 31, 2022.
Motion made by: Mark Nicastro
Seconded by: Jim Burgham
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY21 Financial Report through September 30, 2021, was provided for review. Approximately \$6.7 million is available for customers through June 30, 2022, with \$2.4 million already obligated. Appropriate funding levels are anticipated to be spent by the end of the program year.

Balanced Scorecard

The 1st Quarter PY21 (July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. All 15 measures are now active. Out of the 15 active measures, 8 have met or exceeded the year-to-date target, 3 measures were within 10% of the year-to-date target, and 4 measures (Line 3 – business satisfaction recruitment surveys, Line 13 – # of new PY21 dislocated workers in registered services, Line 14 – # of youth with new CCMEP IOPs, and Line 16 – PY20 carry-in funds spent) were not on target. The following explanations were provided for the 4 measures that were not on target:

Line 3 – One onsite business recruitment has been completed this program year, and the satisfaction survey has not yet been received.

Line 13 – Many dislocated workers are still not seeking services, but they are expected to come in sometime this program year.

Line 14 – The number of youth with new CCMEP IOPs is down due to the difficulty in reaching out-of-school youth, however, increased attention is being given to target this population.

Line 16 – Focus is on spending the PY20 funds first before spending/obligating the PY21 funds.

Program Operator Report

A handout showing the various sources of Area 17 workforce development funding was provided and reviewed. The sources of funding include WIOA, TANF for CCMEP, and special grants. Any funding from the Department of Labor are issued first to ODJFS, and then ODJFS allocates the funds to the workforce areas. The various classifications of funds have eligibility requirements that customers must meet in order to receive the funding for services. Customers can also be eligible under more than one funding stream, and it is up to the operator to strategize the best funding stream to use in order to serve the most customers effectively. These funds cannot be used freely for general marketing purposes; if funding is being considered for outreach, it must be program specific in its message and must follow strict guidelines to ensure that unallowable costs are not expended.

The 1st Quarter PY20 (July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021) Operator's Report was reviewed. 84% of new training enrollments is comprised of short-term training and OJTs. Most of the short-term training is for CDL-As, LPNs, STNAs, and medical assisting; most of the OJTs are in manufacturing. Customers in long-term training are mostly enrolled in social work, accounting, and RN programs. Total individuals enrolled is 200, which is in line with the 4-year average of 198.

Total individuals served is 3,071; 1,719 are in registered services, and 1,352 received basic services through the OMJ centers. Services continue to be offered virtually and in-person.

The Ohio to Work initiative, which is being sponsored by JobsOhio, was officially launched yesterday. The intent of the initiative is to provide Ohio jobseekers with personalized career coaching and additional career tools. The OMJ centers are partners in the initiative and will receive outreach funding, which will be used to establish a presence on social media platforms to inform the public about all services available through the OMJ centers. In addition to outreach, funding for staff training related to the initiative will also be provided. Ohio to Work focuses on meeting the needs of employers in the IT, healthcare, and manufacturing industries and will be in place until December 31, 2022. The Regional Chamber is focusing on the employers for the initiative, whereas other partners, such as the OMJ centers, are focusing on the job seekers. Additional information will be shared when it becomes available.

Director's Report

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Allocation – It was previously reported that Area 17 experienced a 21.8% decrease in its PY21 WIOA allocations. On October 1st, the TANF allocation for CCMEP was issued, which is slightly over \$3 million. Given the fact that TANF for the CCMEP program is a significant amount of funding for the area, the overall funding decrease for PY21 has changed to 15%. The CCMEP TANF funding is used for in-school and out-of-school, ages 16-24.

WDB Certification – Every two years, local workforce development boards must be recertified by the State to ensure that membership is in compliance according to WIOA legislation. Area 17's WDB recertification is due in February and documentation is being compiled for submission.

WIOA Performance – A question submitted on the previous meeting evaluation inquired about the outcome if performance measures were not met. WIOA performance measures are negotiated on a biennial basis between the local area and the State. Annual measures are based on past performance and projected performance of the area. Quarterly performance reports are provided by the State, and local areas can also generate reports more frequently to monitor progress throughout the year. If a measure is failed, corrective action is submitted to the State; if the same measure is failed within two consecutive years, further review by the State would be required, and the local area may not be re-designated. Area 17 continues to remain proactive and strategic in meeting its performance measures.

Virtual Meeting Policy – A virtual meeting policy has been developed locally based on preliminary guidance issued by the State. If a situation arises when the Board could not meet in person, the WDB Chair can authorize a virtual meeting. If the final guidance from the State changes, the policy will be updated accordingly. The final policy will be posted on the WDB website with the bylaws.

Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant (OERG) – The OERG has been available for the last four years and is scheduled to end in Spring 2022. In addition to its original allocation, Area 17 has accepted additional increments which has allowed the area to extend its WIOA formula allocations, which are available for two years.

National Dislocated Worker COVID-19 Grant – The State had completed a fiscal monitoring of the National Dislocated Worker in Area 17, and there were no findings.

Meeting Evaluation

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

City of Youngstown – The City of Youngstown just released a local app called “YO! City” to reward residents for shopping at local businesses in Youngstown. When residents shop at the local businesses using the app, rewards are earned which can be used as local currency towards purchases at other local businesses in Youngstown.

Youngstown State University – The Division of Workforce Education and Innovation has a new a Skills Accelerator program which offers stackable microcredentials in areas that focus on advanced manufacturing, IT, general business, and professional skills. 57 different offerings are currently available. The program is open to the public, and many of the microcredentials are free. They can be also be taken individually or in a cohort. Additional information is available at www.yosu.edu/skillsaccelerator.

Mercy Health – Mercy Health is offering 100% coverage for tuition at local training providers to bridge the gap for in-network programs, such as nursing, laboratory services, imaging services, and nurse aides as support for current associates and to attract new individuals to fill job openings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45am.