

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

July 18, 2023

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Chuck Adkins, Courtney Amendola for Rachel Ketterman, John Dance, Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, James Ford, Bryan Higgins, Susie Kooser, Joyce Loychik for Joe Caruso, Melissa Maiorano, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, William Moore, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Mark Nicastro, Meribeth Noble, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Julie Rupert, Scott Satterlee, Jason Schnabl, Brianna Sullivan for Brian Eskridge, Amelia Taggart for Art Daly, and Jason White for LaMont English.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Ralph Blanco, David Deibel, Dominic Donofrio, Joe Fiumara, RJ Fryan, Matt Golladay, Steve Kiraly, Marty Loney, Marilyn Montes, Julie Needs, and Arisha Williams.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

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

Guests: Chris Orr (ODJFS) and Susan Tracy (American Standard).

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place. New member Jason Schnabl, from American Standard, 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:	William Moore
Seconded by:	James Ford
Discussion:	None
Motion approved.	

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY22 Financial Report through June 30, 2023, was provided for review. In PY22, \$9,528,000 has been spent or obligated; \$3.8 million is available in PY23.

In PY20, Area 17 initially received \$350,000 from the COVID-19 grant and subsequently received an additional \$680,000. The COVID-19 grant has been used to fund services for dislocated workers.

Balanced Scorecard

The 4th Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Area 17 met or exceeded eleven of the fourteen measures. The remaining three measures were not met, which include Line 9 – # of new OJT participants in PY22, Line 11 – # of youth with new CCMEP IOPs, and Line 14 – % of One-Stop partners contributing to cost-sharing.

Line 9 was not met due to limited funding and the need to enter priority status. Line 11 was not met due to the spending requirements for out-of-school youth; 75% of youth funds must be spent on out of school youth, and 25% of funds has already been spent on in-school youth. For Line 14, four partners still need to submit payment, and follow-up has been made with all of them.

Program Operator Report*Operator's Report*

The 4th Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) Operator's Report was reviewed. Overall, enrollments were higher compared to last year. A comparison of the past three years was also provided, and except for PY20 (due to COVID-19), the number of individuals being served is comparable during that timeframe. Nearly 61,000 visits were made over the past five years at the OMJ centers.

In PY22, the number of youth participants enrolled in CCMEP has decreased significantly due to them completing and exiting the program. Depending on when participants enter CCMEP, they can be in the program four – six years before they leave. Since many of the CCMEP participants have exited the program, assistance with out-of-school youth referrals was requested from the Board. A CCMEP orientation video has been created and will be shared with WDB members. Eligibility for any referred individuals will be conducted by MCTA staff. MCDJFS will refer its participants from the summer youth program. CCMEP flyers were also distributed, and Spanish versions are also available.

Area 17 has applied for additional BRN funds from the State. As part of the application, focus will be given to the electric vehicle industry, which will have a significant impact on the existing businesses, and the BRN team will begin to identify the local supply chain needs. BRN interviews will also continue with businesses in other industries.

Director's Report*MCTA 40th Anniversary*

The Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA) recently celebrated its 40th anniversary in June. In 1983, the Mahoning County and Columbiana County Commissioners were charged with establishing a local workforce development system as required by federal legislation. They created MCTA as a regional council of governments to fulfill the required local workforce development duties and responsibilities.

PY23 WIOA Allocations

For PY23, Area 17 received a 16.4% decrease in funding compared to last year, which equates to approximately \$650,000. The State has indicated that they will help areas with their funding shortages later this year when they know what funding will be available. Area 17 has taken a conservative approach at this point, and upon the approval of the Executive Committee, will only serve residents, employers, and/or individuals who may have been laid-off from a company in Mahoning and Columbiana counties. Priority status has been implemented, which means MCTA prioritizes individuals who receive public assistance, are low-income, or basic skills deficient over other eligible participants who are requesting training services. Area 17 will continue to participate in any special grants that become available. The CCMEP TANF funds are expected to be the same, which is approximately \$3 million.

Regional/Local Plans

The two-year regional and local plan modification for the East Ohio Region, which is comprised of Area 17, Area 6 (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties), and Area 18 (Trumbull County), was submitted and accepted in May by the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development.

Monitoring Results

Two fiscal reviews were conducted in Area 17. The annual Single Audit, which is submitted to the Auditor of State, was completed, and there were no findings. The WIOA-CCMEP fiscal review was completed by OWD staff, and no findings were reported.

Two programmatic reviews were also completed. The National Dislocated Worker Fresh Start Grant for PY21-PY22 was monitored, and there were no significant findings. A data validation was also conducted by the State in Area 17. The State pulled 45 files, analyzed 107 data elements, and only 8 errors were identified. The results were acceptable to the State, and no corrective action was required.

ARIES

ARIES, the State's case management system, has been in place for about a year, and some data issues still exist, which has made it difficult for State staff to monitor local areas. A letter was issued from the State indicating that local areas will not be held responsible for data errors attributable to ARIES.

In May, State staff visited Area 17 to learn more about the issues being experienced with ARIES. They were very receptive to what they heard, and a representative from the Governor's office was also in attendance. Areas were exempt from any penalties that may have resulted from last year's performance, and another exemption has been requested again for this year.

Population Shifts and Employment

On the previous meeting evaluation, someone inquired about how population shifts relate to job openings in the area, however, additional clarification is needed to provide the proper information. The Regional Chamber has been making efforts to address the population concern in the area, and further discussion can be held at the October WDB meeting.

Presentation: Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

Mark Ragozine, Economic Development Project Manager, provided an overview about Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and how its projects benefit the region. Initially, Eastgate was a transportation organization, and has significantly expanded over the years to include economic development, environmental, and broadband projects. Eastgate receives its funding from various resources based upon the nature of the project.

The State has an Appalachian Community Grant Program, which makes \$500 million available for 32 counties in Ohio. Eastgate plans to apply for \$100 million to put towards the River of Opportunity project, which focuses on removing dams along the Mahoning River; the Lake to River Logistics Corridor which can provide broadband to rural, undeserved areas ranging from Ashtabula County to Columbiana County; and repopulation and housing strategies.

Eastgate is also working on a \$1.5 million project with the Mahoning County Commissioners called Connect Mahoning. Connect Mahoning seeks to provide broadband service to unserved areas of Springfield, Goshen, Jackson Milton, and Smith townships. This project is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of next year.

Eastgate is also part of the Power Coalition to coordinate water and energy resources to attract projects and businesses to the area. The coalition is relatively new and is voluntary to participate.

Eastgate has been involved with the Logistics Innovation and Vehicle Electrification (LIVE) Zone to enhance logistics and innovation in the North Jackson – Lordstown area and focus on how the area can further capitalize on the supply chain needs for the electrical vehicle industry.

Eastgate has received over \$1.2 million in Appalachian Regional Commission grants for planning and development, over \$11 million in Economic Development Administration grants, and over \$113 million for transportation and infrastructure.

Meeting Evaluation

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

No updates were reported.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.