

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

One-Stop Committee Meeting
December 14, 2023
8:00 am

Best Western Plus – Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

Attendees: Tom Andrews, Cyndy Bresnahan, Ishmael Brown, Jennifer Campbell, Kathleen Clarke, Kelly Darney, John Dilling, Lynn Esposito, James Ford, Sandy Furano, Bryan Higgins, Lindsay Hildreth, Jack Hile, David Janofa, Mary Ann Kochalko, Mary Mihalopoulos, Christina Miller, William Moore, Lori Murphy, Mark Nicasastro, Joe Paloski, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, Robert Ritchey, Sharlene Senediak, Puella Stoddard, Jennifer Strank, Susan Tracy, and Susie Wickline.

Call to Order/Introductions

Kelly Darney, One-Stop Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00am, and introductions took place.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

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

Old Business

Budget to Actual Report

The PY23 income statements for Area 17 OhioMeansJobs centers were provided. Currently, Mahoning County has \$50,000 left to spend through June 30, 2024; Columbiana County has \$17,539 left to spend. In Mahoning County, funds will be used to replace laptops used for workshops and testing, as well as to replace carpet in the offices and small conference rooms. The quarterly check on the HVAC system was completed and only minor maintenance was needed. In Columbiana County, some funding will be used to replace computers, computer chairs, and carpet cleaning.

New Business

RESEA Performance Update

The Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program is for selected individuals who are receiving unemployment compensation. A statistical model is used to select the participants and is based on the last occupation they were in, county of residence, and length of time they worked for their previous employer. Participants are usually selected within the first 5 weeks of their date filing for unemployment. If selected, participants are mandated to complete the program, or their unemployment benefits will stop. Participants have 21 days to complete the RESEA activities at www.OhioMeansJobs.com. An initial appointment, orientation, and a subsequent appointment is scheduled, and follow-up is conducted with the participant. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to help the participants find employment sooner.

In Area 17, 625 individuals were selected for the year. Of the 625 individuals, 398 completed an initial appointment and 329 completed a subsequent appointment so far this year. The Area 17 performance rates are satisfactory compared to the goals set by the State. The 2024 goals have not been determined yet, but they will either be the same or lower. A pilot workshop has been tested in a few areas and may roll out statewide in the spring to be incorporated as part of the orientation.

OMJ Center Updates

Most of the customers visiting the OMJ centers continue to seek assistance with UI claims. Aside from FedEx, there have been no major layoffs in the area. Efforts were made to reach the affected employees at FedEx, but most employees were either transferred or gained employment elsewhere. If partners hear of any employers who may have a significant lay-off, they are encouraged to contact Cyndy Bresnahan who may be able to offer assistance to the employer.

Since October, there has been an increase of 1,500 visits at the OMJ centers compared to last year during the same quarter, and the number of customers seeking assistance with UI claims has increased.

Operators Report

The email distribution list for the One-Stop Committee meetings is being reviewed. Due to the limited space available in the current meeting room, partners are being asked to send only one representative to meetings and to notify the OMJ managers who should be on the email distribution list. Although meetings are held upstairs, breakfast is available downstairs.

Regarding partner invoices, MCTA was able to bill a partner's cost share more evenly throughout the year before CFIS was implemented. Now, CFIS reports actual expenses, which are reflected in the new invoices. OMJ managers are attempting to spend funds equally each quarter. Some funding is held back for emergencies, therefore, fourth quarter spending will always be somewhat higher. Partners do have the option to pay more each quarter or to pay the full amount upfront. The amount billed will not be higher than what was agreed to when the MOU was developed.

Partner updates and success stories are still being collected for *The Connection*. The information can be emailed to Joann Schuler at jschuler@mctaworkfforce.org or submitted directly through the website at www.omjworkforce.org. Once submitted, partner updates can also be shared on the Area 17 OMJ social media pages.

Outreach efforts continue to reach TANF out-of-school youth. The youth wait list is being worked through and referrals are being requested for in-school youth who will graduate in 2024 or 2025.

An in-service day was held for MCTA staff on November 10th. Staff learned how all departments help customers become successful and achieve self-sufficiency.

OMJ rebranding is underway. Area 17 is waiting to receive its artwork from the State. A list has been made noting what needs to be rebranded. The State provided each county with \$4,000, which gave Area 17 \$8,000 and an additional \$1,000 for the WDB.

WDB Update

Federal Funding Status

Congress has approved another budget extension through February 2, 2024. At the time of the September meeting, significant cuts to WIOA were being proposed, however, those changes did not gain much traction and have since been withdrawn. Congress continues to work on the SFY24 budget although it started October 1st. WIOA remains susceptible to the changes since it has not yet been reauthorized. The Education and Workforce Committee in the US House of Representatives proposed a preliminary bipartisan bill, known as HB6655 – the Stronger Workforce for America Act. If approved by the House, it will move forward to the Senate. It does not seem like the workforce system will be eradicated, but some proposed changes seem to make the system more current to workforce needs.

Meeting Evaluation

Partners were asked to complete the meeting evaluation form provided.

Partner Updates

The Counseling Center of Columbiana County

Youth who do not have access to a car for their driver's license test remains a challenge. Access to public transportation for youth has also been a significant challenge. These challenges negatively impact the youth who are work ready and are unable to gain transportation for work. The suggestion was made to explore insurance options for youth and to inquire about the reasons why youth are no longer able to use the driving school's car.

Goodwill Industries

Shelly Murray is the Interim Director for Goodwill Industries while Ann Phillips is on maternity leave.

Community Action Agency of Columbiana County

CAA of Columbiana County has partnered with NEO Ride to provide a micro-transit throughout the county this past year. NEO Ride now has 4 additional micro-transits that may be used now. The service is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Next Meeting

The next One-Stop Committee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50am.