

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

April 19, 2022

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Chuck Adkins, Megan Cowden for Rachel Ketterman, John Dance, Deann Davis, David Deibel, Dominic Donofrio, John Dyce, Brian Eskridge, Joe Fiumara, RJ Fryan, Bryan Higgins, Susie Kooser, Melissa Maiorano, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, Christina Miller for Art Daly, Dawn Monteiro for Lamont English, Marilyn Montes for Roger Beltz, William Moore, Audrey Morales, Julie Needs, Mark Nicasastro, Erich Offenburg, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Scott Satterlee, and Arisha Williams.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Ralph Blanco, Joe Caruso, Ed Emerick, James Ford, Rick Fryda, Matthew Golladay, LaTasha Johnson, Steve Kiraly, Rakia McRell, Troy Rhoades, Julie Rupert, Holly Swartz, and Sharon Woodberry.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

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

Guests: Ashlee Iannucci (OOD), Ron Klonowski (OOD), AJ Sumell (YSU), and Kristen Womeldorff (ODJFS).

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.
Motion made by: John Dyce
Seconded by: Mark Nicasastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

One-Stop Operator Contract Renewal

The One-Stop Operator was competitively procured last year, and a one-year contract was awarded to the Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA), which began July 1, 2022. Based on legislation, the contract can be extended annually for up to three years, contingent on performance.

The One-Stop Operator is monitored annually, and an on-site monitoring was conducted by WDB staff on February 3, 2022. The monitoring form is the same as previously used, which is based on the deliverable categories specified in the RFP. Deliverable categories include program facilities, outreach, services for job-seeking customers, customer data collection, collaboration, and performance measurement and continuous improvement. The completed monitoring form, as well as proposed scores, were presented to the Executive Committee for acceptance at its February 17, 2022 meeting. Overall, MCTA has satisfactorily met the performance requirements as the One-Stop Operator.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve the renewal of the One-Stop Operator contract with Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association through June 30, 2023.

Motion made by: John Dyce

Seconded by: John Dance

Abstention: Susie Kooser

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

OMJ Center Phase 3 Certification

WIOA legislation requires OMJ centers to be certified every three years, and the State is required to establish objective criteria for local areas to use for the certification process. Phase 1 certification was completed in 2017, and a standards checklist was used to ensure the minimum requirements were in place at the OMJ centers. Phase 2 certification was a quality assurance review completed in 2019. Phase 3 certification is a continuous improvement process which scores benchmarks and critical success factors in three categories:

1. OhioMeansJobs System Provides Excellent Customer Service to Job Seekers, Workers, and Businesses
2. OhioMeansJobs System Reflects Innovative and Effective Service Design
3. OhioMeansJobs System Operates with Integrated Management Systems and High-Quality Staffing

Information for the critical success factors was presented to the Executive Committee for scoring at the February and March meetings. There are 30 critical success factors, and each one can receive a score from 0 to 2. The overall total score for the balanced scorecard is 60.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve the Area 17 OMJ Center Phase 3 Certification Balanced Scorecard as presented.

Motion made by: Dominic Donofrio

Seconded by: Chuck Adkins

Abstention: Susie Kooser

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY21 Financial Report through March 31, 2022, was provided for review. Currently, plenty of funding remains available to spend. This is largely due to the State allowing local areas to carry-in more funding due to the pandemic. As Area 17 continues to spend its PY20 carry-in, additional PY21 carry-in funds will be available to use in PY22.

Balanced Scorecard

The 3rd Quarter PY21 (July 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Out of the 15 active measures, 8 have met or exceeded the year-to-date target, 2 measures are within 10% of the year-to-date target, and 5 measures are not on target. The following explanations were provided for the 5 measures not on target:

- Line 4 (*Employers with Staff-Assisted Job Orders*) – Some progress has been made with gaining new employers to submit job orders, and additional outreach plans are being discussed with the business services team.
- Line 11 (*# of Adults in WIOA Registered Services New PY21*) & Line 13 (*# of Dislocated Workers in WIOA Registered Services New PY21*) – Many individuals are going back to work or finding employment on their own and not seeking services.
- Line 14 (*# of Youth with new CCMEP IOPs*) – Over the past 6 weeks, community outreach has increased significantly. Under legislation, at least 75% of youth funding must be spent on out-of-school youth, and this population is extremely hard to reach after they graduate. Staff is visiting schools to inform students about youth services, and focus is being placed on reaching the high school seniors.

- Line 16 (*PY21 WIOA Funds Spent &/or Obligated*) – Efforts continue to spend the PY20 funds first before spending/obligating the PY21 funds, which can be carried over into next year.

Program Operator Report

The 3rd Quarter PY21 (July 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022) Operator’s Report was reviewed. Short-term training and OJTs continue to represent 86% of new training enrollments. Most of the short-term training continues to be for CDLs, LPNs, STNAs, and medical assisting; social work, accounting, and RN programs remain the focus for long-term training. Since July 1, 2021, 352 individuals have been enrolled, compared to 388 during this time in PY20, and 400 in PY19. Customer traffic has gradually increased over the past few months, and additional employer contracts have been signed for OJTs. 77% of visits are in-person.

Area 17 received its first incentive payment for meeting its performance criteria during the first quarter under the Ohio to Work initiative. The incentive funding is being used to manage the social network platforms on Facebook and Instagram for the OMJ centers. The second quarter performance report was recently submitted for review. If all performance criteria are met, a maximum of \$11,000 can be received each quarter. Staff also participated in the Youngstown Works job fair hosted by Ohio to Work, and over 200 job seekers were in attendance.

Staff are being trained on the new State case management system which is scheduled to launch on Monday.

Additional outreach measures will be implemented soon. The outreach will include billboards, signs on WRTA buses and other transit vehicles, radio ads on LOUD 102.3, and posters.

Director’s Report

Documentation for the Area 17 WDB certification was submitted to the State on January 28, 2022. The information demonstrated that the Area 17 WDB has successfully met all the requirements and is certified through February 2024.

A Single Audit was completed for MCTA and was recently certified by the Auditor of State with no significant findings.

The State also conducted a fiscal monitoring for WIOA and CCMEP funds in Area 17. Due to multiple delays, fiscal monitoring for PY20 crossed over into PY21. Since the review crossed over into the next program year, the State also completed the PY21 fiscal monitoring during the same time. Overall, for both PY20 and PY21, there were no findings.

The Opioid Emergency and Recovery Grant (Opioid 3 Grant) ended on March 31, 2022. The grant funded career and training services for dislocated workers who were impacted by the opioid crisis or those who wanted to pursue careers in areas related to treatment and recovery. Area 17 received 2 ½ times more grant funding than originally allocated, and was able to spend \$922,128 for 130 customers, of which 87 received training. All performance goals were met and well exceeded the established targets. Area 17 will receive an additional \$456,000 from another opioid-related grant called Fresh Start, and it is anticipated that 67 customers will receive training services through these funds. The State continues to seek additional funding opportunities to further address the opioid crisis in Ohio.

Area 17 has also utilized funding for the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program, which provides services to dislocated workers who are unlikely to return to work. The initial PY20 allocation was \$113,000, however, additional funding was made available, allowing Area 17 to spend nearly \$308,000 for the program year. PY21 funds will start to be used and must be spent within the next nine months.

Presentation: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Business Services

Ron Klonowski, OOD Business Relations Specialist, provided an overview of services available to employers. Business relations specialists can establish strategic partnerships with employers to gain as much information about an organization in order to identify the appropriate job-ready OOD customer who can meet the employers’ needs. The business relations specialist will continue to work with the employer after the OOD candidate is hired to address any questions or provide any accommodations to help make it a win-win situation for the jobseeker and employer.

Windmills, a national disability awareness training program, is also available to employers. Windmills is comprised of 12-13 modules. Appropriate modules can be selected based on the target audience and goals an employer is trying to achieve. Training regarding specific disabilities can also be provided.

OOD can also provide worksite accessibility consultations to identify ideas for improving the accessibility of physical and digital environments. A report is provided with suggestions for the employer to consider, as well as where the suggested items can be ordered.

OOD hosts hiring events and pre-screens OOD participants for scheduled interviews with employers. The hiring events originated in the Youngstown area and have since been implemented as a best practice across the state.

OOD offers the College2Careers program which focuses on individuals in college who may have “hidden” disabilities and need assistance. 17 colleges have OOD counselors to work with students and connect them to employment opportunities through the business relations specialist.

Additional information about OOD business services can be found at www.ood.ohio.gov/employers.

Meeting Evaluation

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

Youngstown State University (YSU) – The YSU Division of Workforce Education & Innovation has a Skills Accelerator program which offers 50-60 micro-credentials online for low to no cost. The program is open to anyone – individuals do not need to be a YSU student to participate in the program. YSU also recently partnered with the Opportunity@Work program which is available for employers to post jobs for free and connect with individuals who trained through non-traditional programs. Additional information about Opportunity@Work is available at www.ysu.edu/workforce/talentmarketplace.

Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority (YMHA) – YMHA will look to schedule more events on family sites to focus on youth employment and recruitment for CCMEP

HOPE Conference – The Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) will be hosting its annual HOPE Conference on May 12, 2022, at the Covelli Centre. The event is currently seeking second chance employers and financial institutions. Employers interested in participating in the event can email Carol Ramsay-Loomis at carol@onestopohio.org.

Sustainable Opportunity Development (SOD) Center – The SOD Center is conducting a WorkAdvance model for MVMC. Orientation is April 28th, with the classes beginning on May 2nd. Space is available for 3-4 more participants. WorkAdvance is an earn and learn program. Entry-level manufacturing employees can earn their Certified Production Technician credential, as well as 2 weeks of career readiness training. Upon graduation, participants will receive a \$1,000 incentive for completing the program. Interested employers can contact Julie Needs for more information or visit www.sodcenter.com.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50am.