

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.
OF
MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES
Executive Committee Meeting
May 20, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present: Kelly Darney, Deann Davis, Brian Eskridge, Susie Kooser, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Mark Nicasastro, and Rachel Ketterman
Committee Members Absent: Jim Burgham and David Hughes
Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak

Deann Davis, WDB Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm after verification of a quorum.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda item as prepared.
Motion made by: Kelly Darney
Seconded by: Mark Nicasastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Appointment of Planning and Monitoring Committee Chair

Mary Ann Kochalko has become the new Area 17 WDB Director. Susie Kooser is the new MCTA COO and would like to replace Mary Ann Kochalko as Chair of the Planning and Monitoring Committee.

Motion: To appoint Susie Kooser as Chair of the Planning and Monitoring Committee.
Motion made by: Mark Nicasastro
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Amendment to One-Stop Operator Contract

The Area 17 One-Stop Operator was recently procured, and the contract was awarded to MCTA. As requested under the previous contract, an amendment is being presented to allow MCTA to serve as the One-Stop Operator at no additional cost. MCTA provided the required budget with its proposal, however, the services are in line with career services being provided. Rather than issuing invoices and transferring funds, MCTA can follow an established cost allocation plan for the expenses. The One-Stop Operator activities will be tracked internally by the One-Stop Managers and MCTA COO, to ensure the estimated costs proposed in the budget are within the amount made available under the RFP.

Motion: To accept the amendment to the One-Stop Operator contract as presented.
Motion made by: Kelly Darney
Seconded by: Mark Nicasastro
Abstention: Susie Kooser
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

WDB Policy Updates

The following policy updates were presented:

WDB Program Policy 2 – Priority Selection (Adult): The WIOA Policy Letter reference was updated to WIOAPL 15-20.2.

WDB Program Policy 9 – Adult and Dislocated Worker Work Experience: The WIOA Policy Letter reference was updated to WIOAPL 15-12. Language was added directly from the State’s policy to address when work experience is considered a “training” or “employment” situation. The minimum duration of work experience and monitoring for work experience was also included.

WDB Program Policy 12 – Youth Work Experience: The WIOA Policy Letter reference was updated to WIOAPL 15-13. Language was added directly from the State’s policy to address when work experience is considered a “training” or “employment” situation. Information regarding the compliance of child labor laws, the minimum and maximum number of work experience hours permitted, and the requirements of worksite agreements was also included.

WDB Program Policy 19 – Youth Incentives: Under Job Shadowing, the minimum number of worksite interviews has been reduced to one.

WDB Program Policy 22 – Selection of Basic Skills Assessment: Language was added to indicate that previous assessments can be approved for use by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Workforce Development.

Motion: To approve the changes to WDB Program Policies 2, 9, 12, 19, and 22 as presented.
Motion made by: Rachel Ketterman
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Operations Update

The OMJ centers in Boardman and Lisbon remain open by appointment only. Since the last Executive Committee meeting, an additional 150 customers have been served onsite. The plan is to open the centers for walk-in customers on June 1st. The media will be contacted to tour the new facility in Boardman and also to make the public more aware that the centers are open. Staff are also being encouraged to schedule in-person appointments for eligibility and with career consultants when possible.

Job search requirements are being reinstated for all unemployment claimants. The State is also ending the \$300 federal pandemic unemployment assistance effective June 26th.

The BRN grant has been extended to December 31st, which will allow MCTA to extend the contract for the BRN staff hired under the grant. A virtual job fair platform will also be purchased under the grant as an additional way to assist employers with their hiring needs.

The Opioid 3 grant has been extended through March 31, 2022. With this extension, additional funding will be provided to serve more customers, and efforts are being made to place an individual in subsidized employment, which is a requirement under the grant.

A major focus has been on increasing outreach to target out-of-school youth for CCMEP. This is the time of year to reach graduating seniors, or past senior graduates, to benefit from the services available to them. MCTA has been working with the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio and information has been presented at superintendent, principal, and guidance counselor meetings over the past two weeks. Flyers have been sent to local school districts, and outreach information will be posted on WRTA buses, CARTS buses, and billboards in both counties.

499 participants are currently enrolled in CCMEP, with 81 placed in unsubsidized employment. The unsubsidized placements are split between entry-level positions and positions requiring some type of training, such as manufacturing and dietary aides.

Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services has \$600,000 to conduct a summer youth program with the juvenile court for 14-18 year-old participants; the 18 year-olds can be referred to the CCMEP program. Participants will also register with OhioMeansJobs.

WDB Attendance Summary

The latest WDB meeting attendance summary was reviewed. Currently, five members are at 20% attendance or below. Given the mixed feelings among members regarding virtual meetings, follow-up will be made after in-person meetings are reinstated.

Discussion was held regarding business member options to replace David Hughes on the Board. Businesses will be researched and contacted to determine their interest in serving on the Board.

Status of In-Person Meetings

During the pandemic, the State approved a waiver under the Ohio Sunshine Law, to allow public meetings to be held virtually. The waiver expires on June 30, 2021. State House Bill 110 includes language to extend the use of a virtual platform for some organizations. Workforce Directors have expressed interest to continue virtual meetings and requested to be included in HB 110. Given the timeline and the uncertainty regarding the approval, the July WDB meeting will be held in-person. Reservations have been made at the Dutch Village Inn, and a different room set-up will be used to accommodate social distancing.

Good of the Order

WDB Vice-Chair – Since David Hughes is currently the WDB Vice-Chair, and he has indicated his interest in resigning from the Board, there are two options to fill the WDB Vice-Chair vacancy. One option is changing the bylaws to allow the Executive Committee to appoint a business WDB member to fill the vacancy; the second option is to follow the current bylaws and hold an election. It was decided that an election will be held at the July meeting to fill vacancy, and a request for nominations will be sent to WDB members in June.

PY21 WIOA Allocations – PY21 WIOA allocations will be shared with local areas tomorrow. Overall, the State received a 9.5% decrease in funding which may have some impact Area 17. Staff will be meeting on Monday to review the information and determine a plan moving forward.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.