

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.
OF
MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES
Executive Committee Meeting
February 20, 2025
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Deann Davis, Brian Eskridge, Audrey Morales, Mark Nicastro, and Susie Wickline
Committee Members Absent: Jeremy Corbisello, Ed Emerick, Rachel Ketterman, and Mark Ragozine
Board Staff Present: 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 Item

Motion: To approve the consent agenda item as prepared.
Motion made by: Mark Nicastro
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Youth Services Contract Modification

Compass Family and Community Services has requested the following fee increases to services currently being offered under its WIOA-CCMEP youth services contract:

- Mentoring: \$80/hour to \$95/hour
- 90-day retention service under mentoring: \$850 – flat fee
- Work experience site development: \$70/hour to \$95/hour
- Job readiness training: \$238/week to \$350/week
- Job coaching: \$80/hour to \$95/hour
- Job development: \$210/week to \$275/week
- Career exploration: \$72/hour to \$350/week – the service went from an hourly rate to a weekly rate to streamline the services offered to participants.

The fee increases are still lower than the other youth services providers for the same services. The fee increases would take effect March 1, 2025 and remain in place until June 30, 2026. Current services through Compass cost \$2,000-\$4,000 per month, and a 10-20% increase in annual costs is expected.

Motion: To approve the youth services contract modification with Compass Family and Community Services as presented.
Motion made by: Audrey Morales
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Appointment of One-Stop Committee Chair

Kelly Darney, who served as the One-Stop Committee Chair, recently retired from CCCTC. Jeremy Corbisello, CCCTC Superintendent, recently became a member of the WDB. Mr. Corbisello

is willing to accept the role as the One-Stop Committee Chair and serve on the Executive Committee.

Motion: To appoint Jeremy Corbisello as the Area 17 One-Stop Committee Chair.
Motion made by: Mark Nicastro
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

WDB Policy Update

WDB Program Policy 6 – Supportive Services – Attachment 1: The proposed change is a result of the PY23 fiscal monitoring that was recently completed.

The State fiscal monitor advised Area 17 of concerns regarding the way transportation allowances were being issued to participants. Transportation allowances and payments to public transportation must be related to the services being provided. In Area 17, CCMEP participants have scheduled their own transportation needs. The monitor suggested that use of public transportation is pre-approved to ensure the transportation is for appropriate services under the respective funding stream. After consulting with various State staff members, it was advised that participants do not schedule their own transportation.

A contracted youth services provider will be responsible for scheduling the transportation needed for participants moving forward.

Under WDB Program Policy 6 – Attachment 1, the transportation allowance has been changed to a transportation reimbursement, with a maximum of \$150 per month at the current IRS rate. A reimbursement form will be completed showing the locations traveled to and from. This will be used for any WIOA or TANF services that have been approved and being received.

Motion: To approve WDB Program Policy 6 – Attachment 1 as discussed.
Motion made by: Audrey Morales
Seconded by: Mark Nicastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Operator’s Update

OMJ Partner MOU

The OMJ Partner MOU is being finalized, and it will be presented at the March 13, 2025 One-Stop Committee meeting. Signatories for the MOU were requested to attend the meeting in the meeting notice. After all partner signatures are obtained, the MOU will be submitted to the State by the specified deadline.

New Start – JII Grant

As of January 31, 2025, MCTA has served 9 youth in work experience; the goal for the grant is 10. 26 ITAs and OJTs have been established; the goal for the grant is 45. 25 individuals have been provided with supportive services; the goal for the grant is 35. Of the \$450,000 received for the grant, \$189,524 has been spent. Many customers being served under this grant are pursuing CDL-A programs. 27 customers are active in case management, and funds have been encumbered for 12 participants.

Funding

Efforts continue to spend PY23 funds by June 30, 2025. Meetings are being held with Clever, a marketing agency, to create a new outreach campaign to bring in out-of-school youth for CCMEP TANF and WIOA services.

WDB Meeting Attendance and Evaluation Summary

Due to retirements and new employment opportunities, a few WDB members will need to be replaced soon. Most WDB member attendance rates remain satisfactory. Some WDB members with lower attendance rates do attend subcommittee meetings, which can indicate they still want to be involved. Some members attendance has also shown improvement.

The evaluation summary was reviewed, and ratings remain high. A comment suggested having more networking opportunities with members; a reminder will be included in the meeting notice that networking can be done before or after the meeting. Proposed topics for discussion include the skill sets needed for the jobs noted in the LMI report, AI, and OJTs.

Director's Update

WIOA Reauthorization

There have not been any new developments with WIOA reauthorization. The continuing resolution that is covering WIOA for the current fiscal year ends in March. The State has indicated they have the funding available through June 30, 2025. If there is another continuing resolution and its flat-funded, Ohio will lose \$7.3 million, however, it is unknown how that will specifically impact local areas. If nothing is known by April, ODJFS will assume that WIOA will be flat-funded and project funding levels for local areas.

The House of Representatives has indicated it is open to reviewing WIOA and develop a new reauthorization bill, however, the administration has not shared the direction they would like it to be; it may depend on if there are funding cuts across the board. The uncertainty of the federal government is impacting agencies at the local level. Currently, 37% of MCTA's frontline staff is temporary.

OMJ Certification

The State will launch the OMJ certification criteria to local areas in June. Based on when it is due, it will need to be presented for approval at the October WDB meeting. The information for the OMJ certification will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at the August meeting; if appropriate, it will be recommended for approval to the full WDB board at the October meeting.

WDB Secretary and Youth Chair Vacancies

Since Mark Ragozine will no longer be a WDB member, the WDB Secretary position will be vacant. An email will be sent to the WDB members in March to request nominations for the position.

With Ed Emerick's retirement, the Youth Committee Chair position will be vacant. WDB members who serve on the Youth Committee will be asked if any of them are interested in the position.

Due to the upcoming agenda items, Susie Wickline left the meeting at this time.

Approval of One-Stop Operator Assessment

The completed Area 17 PY24 One-Stop Operator evaluation form was reviewed and changes made from the previous year were highlighted for discussion. Categories evaluated include program facility, outreach, services for job seeking customers, customer data collection, collaboration, and performance measurement and continuous improvement. The scores for each category were proposed, which provided MCTA with an overall rating of Outstanding/Very Good.

Motion: To approve the Area 17 PY24 One-Stop Operator assessment as discussed.

Motion made by: Mark Nicastro

Seconded by: Brian Eskridge

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

Review of Area 17 One-Stop Operator RFP Proposals

The RFP for the Area 17 OhioMeansJobs (One-Stop) Operator was issued on December 9, 2024. The deadline to submit proposals was January 31, 2025. No questions were submitted online during the question and answer period. Only one proposal was submitted in response to the RFP by the specified deadline, and it was from Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association. Committee members reviewing the proposals were asked to sign conflict of interest statements. The proposals, RFP and score sheet were provided to members weeks prior to the meeting to review and score individually. The scored items were reviewed during the meeting, and members’ overall scores for each proposal were recorded to determine an average score. Based upon the average of scores provided, the proposal from the Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association was accepted for recommendation to the Board.

Motion: To recommend to the Workforce Development Board the proposal from Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA) to operate the Area 17 OhioMeansJobs (One-Stop) workforce system, commencing on July 1, 2025.

Motion made by: Brian Eskridge

Seconded by: Audrey Morales

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

Good of the Order

No items were reported.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.