

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

Individuals with Disabilities Committee Meeting  
April 11, 2024  
9:00am  
OhioMeansJobs Center Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Dawn Haines for Joe Caruso, Marcy Patton, Julie Rupert, and Susie Wickline  
Committee Members Absent: Shirley Bowald, Matt Golladay, Brenda Heidinger, and Meribeth Noble  
Adjunct Members: Jack Hile  
Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak  
Guests: Maddie Ciriello and Troy Rhoades

Mr. Eskridge, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05am after verification of a quorum.

**Approval of January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: To approve the January 18, 2024 meeting minutes as prepared.  
Motion made by: Julie Rupert  
Seconded by: Dawn Haines  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**Guest Speaker – Madeline Ciriello, SUD Employment Coordinator, Coleman Health Services**

Maddie Ciriello provided information about the grant-funded Recovery to Work program offered through Coleman Health Services. Ohio is experiencing higher unemployment rates, with substance use as a key contributing factor. Employers have identified multiple concerns when hiring individuals in recovery, however, there are also many benefits to hiring and retaining these individuals. Benefits include the access to a largely untapped economic resource for employment needs and a positive return on investment, when businesses invest in substance use treatment, which can lead to decreased absenteeism, lower rates of substance use recurrence, higher quality of life, higher employment retention rates.

Through its program, Coleman Health Services can link employers with resources to help them become recovery-friendly workplaces, facilitate round table discussions to educate employers about substance use disorders, provide support services to help job candidates rejoin the workforce, and offer intervention services when an employee has a positive drug screen to help retain employment.

The goal of the Recovery to Work program is to collaborate with local stakeholders to improve local communities by providing services to 200 job candidates diagnosed with a substance use disorder and assisting 75 businesses in becoming a recovery ecosystem. A substance use disorder navigator is also available to help monitor individuals in treatment to foster successful outcomes. Ongoing treatment and support for substance use disorders are just as important as any other health issue; there is a huge stigma towards substance use disorders, and it is not seen as a medical or health issue. Employers are being encouraged to be more open to the needs of the employees and address them where possible.

**Grant Updates: Resiliency Grant – Marcy Patton**

Due to the train derailment that happened a year ago in East Palestine, a grant application was submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and over \$1 million was awarded to Columbiana County. The grant application focused on three objectives: (1) to meet the immediate and ongoing behavioral health needs of East Palestine and surrounding areas; (2) to minimize the long-term

impact of the derailment, foster resiliency, and focus on positive environment outlook for the community, and; (3) to expand and enhance the crisis response system. Based on these objectives, five areas were addressed: (1) behavioral health needs; (2) resiliency needs; (3) first responder needs; (4) training needs, and; (5) crisis and service support needs.

The initial purpose for the grant was to focus primarily on immediate resources for counseling, however, it expanded to include long-term efforts for resiliency in the area. The grant is being used to enhance a community garden and to establish a community resiliency center, where several resources will be available. In addition to traditional and substance use counseling, alternative therapies, such as EMDR, yoga, meditation, chair massage, as well as pet, music, art, and culinary therapies, are being offered. The CCMHRSB owns the building for the center, but services are contracted with other agencies. With the use of grant funds, services are available for free to individuals and contracted agencies can collaborate without competition. Funding is available through the end of this year, and plans are in place for sustainability. Until the building is finished, space is being used at The Way Station and East Palestine Health Clinic to offer services. Outreach engagement has been a driving factor to inform the community about all the resources available. Outreach is also being focused on special populations, such as seniors, youth, and individuals with disabilities.

### **Member Updates**

No partner updates were reported.

### **Guest Invite Ideas – next and future meetings?**

Additional suggestions can be emailed to Brian Eskridge at [brian.eskridge@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:brian.eskridge@ood.ohio.gov).

### **Other Business – topics for discussion?**

No other business was discussed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.