

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

Youth Committee Meeting
September 1, 2022
3:00pm
YJATC Office

Committee Members Present:	Ed Emerick
Committee Members Absent:	Roger Beltz, Joe Caruso, Michelle Fitzsimmons, Kyle Kiraly, and Scott Satterlee
WDB Member:	Julie Needs
Board Staff:	Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.
CCMEP Lead Agency Staff:	Melissa Alfano, Susie Kooser, Leigh Samargia-Pflug, and Angela Vollberg

Ed Emerick, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. A quorum was not established, and an informational meeting was held. Changing the time of future meetings to help increase members attendance will be considered.

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

The 9.2.21 and 6.2.22 Youth Committee meeting minutes will be tabled until the next meeting.

Youth Committee Membership

Julie Needs, Executive Director of the SOD Center, is interested in joining the Youth Committee. Since a quorum was not established, her appointment to the Youth Committee will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Review of CCMEP Activity Report and Success Stories

A general overview of CCMEP was provided. The overview explained how youth can be eligible for the program – most low-income youth ages 14-24 with barriers are eligible. CCMEP combines two funding streams – funds from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The goal of CCMEP is to help eligible participants gain employment, enter post-secondary education, or enlist in the military. Under CCMEP, 14 youth elements must be made available, however, participants are not required to receive all elements. The 14 youth elements include:

1. Activities that help youth prepare for and transition to post-secondary education and training
2. Adult mentoring
3. Alternative secondary school services or dropout recovery services
4. Career counseling and labor market information services
5. Comprehensive guidance and counseling
6. Education/training
7. Entrepreneurial skills training
8. Financial literacy education
9. Follow-up services
10. Leadership development
11. Occupational skills training
12. Paid and unpaid work experience
13. Supportive services
14. Tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies.

The elements are provided by 6 contracted service providers: Academy for Urban Scholars, Columbiana County Educational Service Center, Compass Family & Community Services, The Counseling Center of Columbiana County, Junior Achievement, and Utica Shale Academy.

Schools are very receptive to the program which makes it easy to reach in-school youth. 75% of funding must be spent on out-of-school youth, which is the hard-to-reach population. Outreach efforts have increased significantly over the past year to recruit this population.

Youth participants are initially referred to MCTA for assessment and to develop an Individual Opportunity Plan (IOP). After the IOP is developed, youth are referred to service providers for appropriate services. Incentives are also offered for various milestones participants achieve in the program, which helps maintain participants' engagement in the program, and leads to successful completion of the program.

CCMEP was implemented in 2016 and is part of the Ohio Revised Code. Rules are very strict, and the State will be reviewing the rules to determine if adjustments are needed, particularly with eligibility requirements.

Performance

When participants are exited from CCMEP, various federal and state performance measures will be monitored. Performance measures pertain to employment, training and/or military, median earnings, credential attainment, and measurable skills gain. The last comprehensive performance report received was from PY20 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), which was during the pandemic. The only measures considered during that time were the employment, training, and/or military and median wage measures. Area 17 successfully met those measures and would have also met the remaining measures if included. During PY20, Area 17 had 572 youth participants in CCMEP. Of those 572 participants, 231 were funded through WIOA, 341 were funded through TANF. 123 participants were also exited. Incentives help the participants successfully complete the program, which can have a positive impact on performance. Knowing when the participant is ready to exit the program is key to meeting the performance measures.

County Updates / Success Stories

Columbiana County

The Columbiana County Educational Service Center has a very structured work experience program. A shy participant interviewed for a receptionist position, however, did not interview well. He indicated he would like to enter the social work field. He completed the YouScience online career assessment and scored high for social work. CCESC had a related position available in its work experience program for elementary age students. He interviewed better for this position, received some certifications, and started the position today. CCESC is confident after he completes his 40 hours of work, he will be hired full-time.

Utica Shale Academy has issued numerous credentials. A participant continued to create barriers for himself, but he was able to receive his high school diploma and other credentials. After showing weeks of consistent initiative, he may be hired at Ventra soon. Utica Shale has partnered a lot with the SOD Center for the credentials.

An entire family has come through MCTA for services. The mother is very protective of her shy son – she drives him everywhere and has admitted herself she has hindered him. He graduated high school last year and is doing well in the program. His mother knows how well he is doing, and he was able to take a cab by himself to work. Since he has performed extremely well at his job, a new position has been created for him, and he is serving as a mentor for others. His older brother noticed he was making money, and was motivated to come back through the program.

Mahoning County

Melissa Alfano is the new Youth Services Coordinator in Mahoning County, who was previously a Facilitator at the OhioMeansJobs Center in Mahoning County. She also administers the YouScience online career assessment.

The MCTA youth staff in Mahoning County recently relocated from the downtown Youngstown office to the OMJ center in Boardman; this mirrors the set-up in Columbiana County. Being located at the OMJ center can help encourage more youth/young adults to take advantage of OMJ services.

A participant, who was referred by Eastern Gateway, overcame mental illness and wants to create awareness about mental illness and the resources available for assistance. As a single mother, she initially came to MCTA to get her diploma, and in December, she will graduate to be an EMT. She is also thinking about becoming a paramedic.

Member Updates/Other Business

Next Meeting – The next Youth Committee is scheduled for December 1, 2022, at 3pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.