

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

Individuals with Disabilities Committee Meeting  
April 11, 2019  
9:00am  
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Shirley Bowald, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Rob Folsom for Rick Fryda, Brenda Heidinger, Mary Ann Kochalko, Joyce Loychik for Joe Caruso, and Troy Rhoades

Committee Members Absent: Matt Golladay, Jim Klingensmith, and Marcy Patton

Adjunct Members: Jack Hile, Ashlee Iannucci, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, and Jennifer Strank

Board Staff: Bert Cene and Sharlene Senediak

Guest: Deb Hill

Mr. Eskridge, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion: To approve the consent agenda item as prepared.

Motion made by: Mary Ann Kochalko

Seconded by: Shirley Bowald

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

**Guest Speaker, Deb Hill, Columbiana County Mobility Manager**

Deb Hill provided an overview of her role as the Mobility Manager in Columbiana County. The position is funded through the Ohio Department of Transportation, and its main focus is to make transportation more consumer-centric and consider transportation as a service to meet customers' needs, rather than customers trying to fit their mobility needs within set schedules and routes determined by transit providers. The Mobility Manager is also tasked with ensuring transportation is not a barrier for the disabled, elderly, veterans, or low-income individuals. The Mobility Manager works with the public and private transit companies to review transit data, identify transit trends to establish routes, and coordinate "clustered" pick-up or drop off locations. Quarterly meetings are scheduled with all stakeholders to discuss progress, implemented solutions, and continued challenges.

If a county receives ODOT funds, it must have a coordinated transit plan in place, which identifies gaps in service and plans to address the gaps in service. Since WRTA is the public transit system in Mahoning County, it may have written the plan or serves on the Board for the plan. Mahoning County is eligible to have a Mobility Manager in place. To move forward with a proposal to fund the position in Mahoning County, an eligible agency must be identified as the lead agency, and a 20% match in funding is also required.

The suggestion was made to meet with WRTA or invite an WRTA representative to a meeting. Eastgate Regional Council of Governments may be another resource to find out more about opportunities for transportation. Once additional information regarding transportation is received, the committee can report to the Board.

**OOD - Tri-County Placement Network - Columbiana Hiring Event Update**

OOD held its first hiring event for Columbiana County on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, and it was the most successful hiring event to date. Employers that participated included AVI Food Systems, Salem Medical, and Wendy's. One direct hire was made on the spot, one was recommended for hire, and three were offered jobs after the event. Many of the individuals were also first-time visitors to the OhioMeansJobs center.

Shannon Thomas, the OOD Job Developer for the area, took another position within OOD. Dan Williams will be taking her place.

### **DOL Opioid Grant Updates**

The grant awarded to the State to address the opioid epidemic is primarily a dislocated worker grant with an emphasis on those affected by the opioid crisis. Since an individual must be dislocated worker-eligible, the pool of people that can utilize the grant becomes extremely limited and selective. A meeting was held in January with the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board providers to exchange information. Some referrals have been made, and information has been shared with probation officers. Peer supporters are also interested in coming to the OhioMeansJobs center to learn more about the website. Even if referred individuals are not eligible under the dislocated-worker opioid grant, other funding is available for consideration. The grant will end Fall 2020.

### **RETAIN Grant Updates**

A workgroup session was held on Monday to discuss outreach efforts for employers. The session was facilitated by OWD staff Tom Hutter and Ron Weber. The intent of the grant project is to develop parallel system to BWC for those who are injured off the job to help them return to work sooner. Area 17 and 18 are the only local areas participating in the grant. If the pilot is successful, an additional \$20 million can be received to implement the system throughout the entire state of Ohio.

### **Member Updates**

*Compass* – Compass is moving forward with preparations for its summer youth programs. One program will be with OOD customers, and the other program will be for CCMEP participants from MCTA. Additional job coaches will also be hired.

### **Other Business/Next Steps**

*Guest Invite Ideas* – Efforts will be made to contact an appropriate representative at WRTA to attend the next meeting. A participant will also be identified to attend a meeting to share his/her story.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.