

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.**  
**OF**  
**MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES**  
Executive Committee Meeting  
March 21, 2024  
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Rachel Ketterman, Mark Nicaastro, Mark Ragozine, and Susie Wickline  
Committee Members Absent: Kelly Darney and Audrey Morales  
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 Ragozine  
Seconded by: Rachel Ketterman  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**WDB Policy Update**

*WDB Administrative Policy 2 – Privacy and Confidentiality:* Language was added to state that any medical or disability-related information obtained through the determination of eligibility for the provision of services must be kept confidential. An explanation regarding how the information will be kept confidential was also included.

Motion: To approve revisions to WDB Administrative Policy 2 as presented.  
Motion made by: Mark Ragozine  
Seconded by: Mark Nicaastro  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**OMJ Partner MOU Addendums**

The following three OMJ Partner MOU addendums for Mahoning County were reviewed:

- Addendum B – Compass Family and Community Services has requested to no longer be a partner effective January 1, 2024.
- Addendum C – Equus Workforce Solutions has replaced Serrato Group as the Job Corps Operator. OMJ partnership will be reduced from 1 FTE to equal access, effective January 1, 2024.
- Addendum D – MYCAP has requested to be removed as a partner, effective January 30, 2024, since it no longer receives the Community Services Block Grant.

MCTA will cover the cost difference resulting from these changes for the remainder of this program year; a revised budget will be developed for Program Year 2024. The addendums were presented at the last One-Stop Committee meeting and the Mahoning County partners recommended them to the Executive Committee for approval.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the One-Stop Committee and approve OMJ Partner Addendums B-D as presented.  
Motion made by: Rachel Ketterman  
Seconded by: Mark Nicaastro  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

## **Youth Services Contract Modification**

Monitoring for the youth services contracts was completed near the beginning of February. All service providers met their contractual requirements satisfactorily, and all are interested in extending their contracts for another year. Utica Shale Academy has also requested to add job coaching and job placement to enhance its work experience services. The proposed cost will be \$75/hour, which is comparable to other service providers who offer work experience. The addendums were presented at the last Youth Committee meeting and were recommended to the Executive Committee for approval.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the Youth Committee and approve the youth services contract modifications as presented for Columbiana County Educational Service Center, Compass Family and Community Services, The Counseling Center of Columbiana County, Junior Achievement Mahoning Valley, and Utica Shale Academy.

Motion made by: Ed Emerick

Seconded by: Brian Eskridge

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

## **Operator's Update**

Due to the funding decrease experienced in PY23, MCTA continues to work through a wait list for customers seeking training services. Vacant staff positions have also gone unfilled. To maintain service delivery, programmatic staff are being cross trained between adult and youth services. All staff are also being cross trained in various departments to serve as back-up when needed.

An outreach campaign is being developed for CCMEP to specifically target individuals who could be eligible for the program. This will be done by zip code, geocaching, age, and parenting youth.

Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services has asked MCTA to conduct its Summer TANF Youth Program. Meetings have been held to discuss details, and the program is on track to begin in June.

Progress continues to be made with the OMJ rebranding. Quotes have been requested to update outreach materials and signage by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The State provided some funding to assist with the rebranding, however, if costs go over the amount received, local areas will need to use their own funding.

## **WDB Meeting Attendance and Evaluation Summary**

The 1.16.24 WDB meeting attendance summary was reviewed, and members with an attendance rate under 33% were addressed. Some business members have indicated they will be resigning from the Board due to time constraints or changes in employment. The State would like local areas to have a representative from the 5G industry on the Board; efforts will be made to recruit someone from that industry. Attendance rates for most non-business members are satisfactory.

The comments noted on the 1.16.24 WDB evaluation summary continue to be positive. Suggested topics to discuss include new investment in the region, major employers with demand for employees, and local business involvement with trade schools. The testimonial letters for OJTs were also well-received.

## **Director's Update**

### *Funding Levels Update*

The State provided a preliminary PY24/FY25 budget for local areas, however, new information indicates that the FY24 budget will remain at FY23 funding levels. It is uncertain how this will impact next year's funding for local areas. Priority status for customers will remain in place moving into the next program year.

### *WIOA Reauthorization*

The proposed House bill for WIOA reauthorization (HR 6655) has not had any movement since December. The Senate is beginning to consider workforce development in its discussions.

*Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations (OUIO)*

The Mahoning County OMJ center is participating in a 3-month pilot program with the State’s OUIO to address questions and technical difficulties with unemployment claims at a local level. An ODFJS adjudicator will be present at the OMJ center one day a week. Customers are seen by appointment only, and the OMJ facilitators manage the scheduling. This can provide State staff with the opportunity to see first-hand the challenges customers are experiencing and make improvements to the system and process where possible. The pilot has received a lot of positive feedback. Employers have also had difficulty contacting someone regarding claims.

*WDB Subsequent Certification*

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Area 17 received notification that the application for WDB subsequent certification and supporting documentation were approved. The Area 17 WDB is recertified through March 2026.

Due to the next agenda item, Susie Wickline recused herself from the meeting.

**One-Stop Operator Assessment**

The completed Area 17 PY23 One-Stop Operator evaluation form, and a summary of changes from the previous year, were provided for review and 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 recommend to the Workforce Development Board the extension of the One-Stop operator contract with Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association through June 30, 2025.

Motion made by: Mark Nicaastro

Seconded by: Ed Emerick

Discussion: This is the final year that a contract extension is allowed. An RFP for the Area 17 One-Stop Operator will need to be issued this fall.

Motion approved.

**Good of the Order**

No items were reported.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.