

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

One-Stop Committee Meeting  
December 8, 2022  
8:00 am

Best Western Plus – Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

**Attendees:** Tom Andrews, Shirley Bowald, Cyndy Bresnahan, Ty-Juan Bright, Ishmael Brown, Sandy Cain, Jennifer Campbell, Kelly Darney, John Dilling, Lynn Esposito, James Ford, Sandy Furano, Bryan Higgins, Lindsay Hildreth, Jack Hile, David Janofa, Mary Ann Kochalko, Susie Kooser, Joyce Loychik, Sarah Marino, Mary Mihalopoulos, Christina Miller, Dawn Monteiro, Lori Murphy, Mark Nicastro, Joe Paloski, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, Robert Ritchey, JoAnn Schuler, Logan Seabrook, Sharlene Senediak, Jennifer Strank, Tammy Wolfe, and Kristen Womeldorff.

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Kelly Darney, One-Stop Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00am, and introductions took place.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as presented.  
Motion made by: James Ford  
Seconded by: Shirley Bowald  
Discussion: None

Motion approved.

**Old Business**

**Budget to Actual Report**

The PY22 income statements for both OhioMeansJobs centers in Area 17 were provided. Currently, Mahoning County has approximately \$64,600 of its budget left to spend; Columbiana County has \$22,480 left to spend. As usual, both budgets will be 100% spent by the end of the program year. A request was made to partners to allow the transfer of funds between budget line items to meet the needs of the OMJ centers.

*Mahoning County*

Motion: To allow the transfer of funds between budget line items within the Mahoning County budget, without exceeding the current budget.  
Motion made by: Lori Murphy  
Seconded by: David Janofa  
Discussion: None

Motion approved.

*Columbiana County*

Motion: To allow the transfer of funds between budget line items within the Columbiana County budget, without exceeding the current budget.  
Motion made by: Tom Andrews  
Seconded by: John Dilling  
Discussion: None

Motion approved.

**New Business**

**Operators Report**

*Oakhill Satellite*

The OMJ satellite at Oak Hill is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-4pm. Customers have been coming in, and youth staff have also been meeting with participants at this location. An increase in customer traffic is expected

once MCDJFS reopens to the public in January. Aspire will offer classes by appointment only, and once customer traffic starts to increase, some workshops will be offered.

### *Ohio to Work Initiative*

The Ohio to Work initiative will end December 31<sup>st</sup>, however, the YouScience assessment will remain available through December 31, 2023. YouScience has provided a lot of customer traffic at the OMJ centers, and many local schools and community agencies are interested in learning more about it. The assessment informs individuals how their current skills can be utilized in a new job. Skills and strengths to put on a resume are also suggested to give jobseekers more insight about themselves.

### *Workforce Coalition*

Many OMJ partners are involved in a workforce coalition that focuses on finding ways to attract more individuals and businesses to the area. The coalition is in its beginning stages and more information will be shared when it becomes available.

### **RETAIN Grant Update**

The RETAIN grant focuses on return to work/stay at work strategies for individuals who were injured off the job. Ohio is one of five states participating in Phase Two of the RETAIN grant. Currently, Ohio is significantly ahead of the other states in patient enrollments and is expected to meet its overall total of 3,700 enrollments by March 2024, which is the enrollment end date. Eligible diagnoses for the grant include musculoskeletal injuries, cardiac-related issues, abdominal surgeries, and mental health. Many employers assume the accommodations needed are expensive, however, they are usually very inexpensive. It is also more cost-efficient to retain an employee than to hire a new one. Statewide statistics were shared, and stories are being collected to demonstrate the success of the grant.

### **OMJ Center Updates**

Monthly in-person and virtual customer traffic reports were presented. Both in-person and virtual customer visits continue to increase compared to last year, however, the percentages between the two remain the same (20-25% virtual). Peak months for customer traffic is June/July/August and January, which are the months before training providers begin their classes.

In the last quarter, Area 17 OMJ centers received 182 customer referrals from Flying High, RETAIN, Ohio to Work, and other OMJ partners. Staff are also looking forward to the increase in customer traffic at the Oak Hill satellite.

### **Success Stories**

In Columbiana County, a Chinese couple living in Salem came into the OMJ center for assistance. The husband spoke limited English, and the wife only spoke Mandarin. The couple was referred to Goodwill for job search assistance. Through Goodwill, the husband was able to become an Uber driver, and OHCCA has been able to provide Mandarin translation services. The couple are also seeking employment at a hotel located in Salem.

In Mahoning County, a retired policeman came into the OMJ center looking for work. His wife had passed away, and they had no children. He indicated that he likes to work with children, even those with disabilities. The suggestion was made to work at MCCTC as a paraprofessional or at Purple Cat, which is an agency that works with individuals with disabilities. He updated his resume and submitted it to both places. He returned a few weeks later to say he accepted a job from Purple Cat. If he knew then what he knows now, he may have taken a different path and worked with special needs children as his career.

### **WDB Update**

#### *OMJ Operator Contract Monitoring*

Each year, the WDB staff, on behalf of the WDB, is required to monitor the OMJ Operator contract, which was awarded to MCTA. The OMJ Operator will be monitored on program facilities, outreach, services for job seeking customers, customer data collection, collaboration, and performance measurement and continuous improvement. The monitoring results will be presented to the Executive Committee at its February meeting.

### *OMJ Partner MOU*

The current OMJ Partner MOU will end June 30, 2023. The upcoming MOU will be for two years. The State has not provided any guidance for the next MOU yet, however, partners were asked to notify MCTA of any changes in participation or signatories.

### **Meeting Evaluation**

Partners were asked to complete the meeting evaluation form provided.

### **Partner Updates**

#### *MCTA*

The MCTA administration office has officially moved to 721 Boardman-Poland Rd., Boardman, OH 44512.

#### *The Connection*

Partners were asked to submit any stories for the January edition of *The Connection* to Joann Schuler by the end of next week.

#### *YMHA*

Efforts are being made to assist YMHA residents to enter the workforce and become self-sufficient. YMHA is collaborating with United Returning Citizens to complete expungements for its residents. Monthly expungement workshops will begin in January 2023. Discussions have been held for OMJ staff to conduct computer workshops onsite at a YMHA next year. Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available to all YMHA residents.

YMHA facilities are still only open 3 days a week, however, being open 4 days may be a possibility for next year. WEP workers are needed on the properties.

#### *CAA of Columbiana County*

Due to the pandemic, CAA received approximately \$4 million for utility, rental, and mortgage assistance. Approximately \$450,000 is available through 2025, and Columbiana County residents can apply for this funding. Applications for winter crisis energy assistance became available on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The health center now has a mobile dental unit. Meetings are being held with various local elected officials to target the locations where residents do not have access to health or dental care. Various insurances are accepted, however, if individuals do not have insurance, other payment options are available.

The CARTS transit system has a partnership with NEORide and other public transits to establish Uber-like, micro-transits in Columbiana and Salem. The cost will be covered for 3-5 years through a grant NEORide received. If enough riders utilize the service, it may be continued after the grant.

#### *Choffin Career and Technical Center*

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Choffin CTC had a ribbon-cutting for its YOUMed Academy. Five programs are available under this high school-level academy: patient care, fitness training, athletic training, physical therapy, dental assisting with medical administration. Other high school-level academies include skilled trades, business/entrepreneurship, and arts. The students receive work-based learning, and the employers are very pleased with the students' performance.

#### *Next Meeting*

The next One-Stop Committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50am.