

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

Youth Committee Meeting
September 5, 2024
3:00pm
YJATC Office

Committee Members Present: Kim Berry, Doreen Block for Joe Caruso, Kim Berry, Ed Emerick, and Michelle Fitzsimmons for Jeremy Corbisello
Committee Members Absent: Cody Hilliard, Julie Needs, and Meribeth Noble
Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak
CCMEP Lead Agency Staff: Melissa Alfano, Leigh Samargia-Pflug, Angela Vollberg, and Susie Wickline

Ed Emerick, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05pm, and a quorum was established.

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 7, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.
Motion made by: Michelle Fitzsimmons
Seconded by: Kim Berry
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Youth Committee Membership

Jeremy Corbisello, CCCTC Superintendent, replaced Chuck Adkins on the Area 17 Workforce Development Board. To fulfill his responsibility of serving on a subcommittee, he would like to become a member of the Area 17 Youth Committee, thereby replacing Michelle Fitzsimmons.

Motion: To replace Michelle Fitzsimmons with Jeremy Corbisello as the representative from CCCTC on the Youth Committee.
Motion made by: Kim Berry
Seconded by: Doreen Block
Discussion: Michelle Fitzsimmons can still attend as a proxy for Jeremy Corbisello.
Motion approved.

Approve 2025 Youth Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion: To approve the 2025 Youth Committee meeting schedule as presented.
Motion made by: Michelle Fitzsimmons
Seconded by: Kim Berry
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

WDB Program Policy 12: Youth Work Experience

Language was added to clarify and foster the completion of work experience. Changes include:

- The duration of work experience shall not exceed a cumulative total of 1,040 hours per calendar year;
- Proof of completion of a job readiness curriculum within the 90 days preceding the initial work experience must be in the participant's file; this excludes an employer-referred OJT, and;

- Paid work experience, excluding OJTs, is a one-time service, and should not exceed 500 hours. If subsequent paid work experience is considered, a justification must be submitted to the WDB Director outlining the reasoning.

The proposed effective date for the policy changes is October 1, 2024.

Motion: To recommend the revised WDB Program Policy 12 to the Workforce Development Board for approval.

Motion made by: Kim Berry

Seconded by: Michelle Fitzsimmons

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

Review of CCMEP Activity Report

The CCMEP Activity Report (July 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024) was provided and reviewed. Total active CCMEP participants is 276; this total includes participants carried over from previous years and the number of new participants, which is 12. Since July, 122 referrals have been made, which is an increase of 39 participants compared to this time last year. The increase is mainly due to completing CCMEP applications on all individuals who are 25 years old and younger and determining if they can be funded through CCMEP. 3 participants have completed job readiness; 30 are in work experience, which includes some participants from previous years; 18 are in high school or high school equivalency prep program; 5 have attained their high school diploma or equivalency; 26 entered postsecondary training; 3 completed training, and; 49 are in job placements.

Adjusted Annual CCMEP Performance Report

The PY22 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) Adjusted Annual CCMEP Performance Report was reviewed. This report includes all participants funded under CCMEP with WIOA and/or TANF funds. The final performance report is adjusted based on the demographics and barriers of the participants that were served in Area 17. The performance measures include:

- Education, Training, or Employment 2nd Quarter after Exit
- Education, Training, or Employment 4th Quarter after Exit
- Median Earnings 2nd Quarter after Exit
- Credential Attainment
- Measurable Skills Gains

Depending on how participants fall within the cohort periods of each measure, the area's standard rates are adjusted up or down. The cohort periods are also different depending on the performance measure. The quarter a participant is exited from the program has an impact on the measures, and exit dates are monitored regularly. The State also provides quarterly reports throughout the year to ensure information is entered into ARIES correctly.

The PY22 Adjusted Annual WIOA Performance Report was also provided and explained. This report only represents individuals who were funded by WIOA. Usually, performance for the WIOA-only participants is slightly higher than TANF-only due to additional barriers that may exist with the TANF-only participants.

Area 17 has met or exceeded the performance measure rates, which shows that the workforce area is effective in providing services.

Youth Services Procedure Improvements

Since ARIES was introduced as the State's new case management system, there was a learning curve in determining what the system was able to track and report on. There were also challenges with the data when monitors came to visit. To address any shortcomings, paperwork in all the files has been reviewed to ensure the information is current, complete, accurate, and matches what has been entered into ARIES. Training will be scheduled with staff to review the errors found during the file reviews and to reiterate the correct processes and procedures moving forward.

CCMEP Challenges and Successes

Mahoning County

Many of the challenges with CCMEP participants pertain to a lack of communication, which leads to the lack of engagement; childcare; transportation issues; incarcerations, and; homelessness.

The service providers provide a tremendous number of resources for the participants to receive the support they need to be successful. One participant continues to take advantage of the services and resources provided to him. He is employed, living with friends, and is in the process of getting his driver's license. He also plans to complete a financial literacy class, as well as a nutritional class.

Another participant is pursuing phlebotomy at ETI and is doing well.

Initially, some OWF participants were not very cooperative in the beginning, however, they have come around and are completing services.

An ex-offender has been progressing through the program, attending NCST, and utilizing the resources available.

Another participant, who was very shy, only wanted to work in a factory. She did work experience at St. Vincent De Paul, really liked it, and is now a dietary aide at Mercy Health.

Columbiana County

The challenges are the same as Mahoning County, with a significant number of justice-involved participants. The justice-involved participants have been involved with overdoses, domestic violence, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse, loss of custody, and mental health disorders. Traditional services do not provide the assistance needed to fully support these participants, so they are connected with a health crisis team through the Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board at no charge.

One success involves a young mother who graduated from a nontraditional high school. She became homeless after graduation, but is now working part-time, has a home, and is enrolled in a medical assisting program. She has a 3.5 grade point average, and the program is being funded by MCTA.

Another participant graduated high school, stayed at home, finished his driver's education, and is attending NCST for electrical and industrial maintenance. He has perfect attendance and a 4.0 grade point average. OOD is funding his training, and MCTA is helping with incentives. He eventually plans to move to Cleveland and maintain his independence.

CCMEP Evaluation

The Ohio Workforce Association, which is comprised of Ohio's workforce area directors, was commissioned by the State to oversee an evaluation of CCMEP for the years 2017 to 2022. A workgroup has been established to review and implement the recommendations from the study, and Area 17 will serve on the workgroup to represent an area with a stand-alone WIOA agency. One aspect of the evaluation noted that Area 17 has the highest proportion of participants with a disability at 55%. Disabilities affect the outcomes of the program since disabilities can have a bigger impact on other barriers. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Member Updates

CCCTC – Classes have been in session for three weeks, and enrollment has increased.

Other Business

No other business was reported.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.