

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

Youth Committee Meeting  
June 3, 2021  
3:00pm  
Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present: Jim Burgham, Ed Emerick, Kyle Kiraly, and Nancy Romeo for Joe Caruso.  
Committee Members Absent: Roger Beltz, Michelle Fitzsimmons, Sharon Woodberry.  
Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.  
CCMEP Lead Agency Staff: Tonya Hawkins, Susie Kooser, Leigh Samargia-Pflug, and Angela Vollberg.

Jim Burgham, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm after verification of a quorum.

**Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes as presented.  
Motion made by: Ed Emerick  
Seconded by: Nancy Romeo  
Discussion: None  
Motion approved.

**Review of CCMEP Activity Report**

As of April 30, 2021, Area 17 has 499 active participants enrolled in CCMEP, which does not include exited participants who remain in follow-up services for one year. Since July 1, 2020, there have been 227 new enrollments (95 – Mahoning; 132 – Columbiana) and 115 new participants with Individual Opportunity Plans (IOPs) (72 – Mahoning; 43 – Columbiana). Mahoning County has a higher rate of new IOPs due to a larger number of Ohio Works First (OWF) participants through MCDJFS, and OWF participants are mandated to have an IOP established in order to be approved for cash benefits. Since services became virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions, the virtual referrals for the non-mandated participants allowed staff to eliminate those participants who were not eligible or interested in services, permitting staff to focus on participants who did want to take advantage of the services available to them. Even with the COVID-19 restrictions, 16 participants were placed in work experience, and 81 gained unsubsidized employment. With COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, those numbers are anticipated to increase.

**County Updates/Success Stories**

*Mahoning County*

A major focus has been on increasing outreach to youth for CCMEP. This is the time of year to reach graduating seniors, or past senior graduates, who can benefit from the services available. Outreach information will be posted on WRTA buses and billboards to reach this population.

One success story involves a participant who attended the Boardman Training Center. She was originally enrolled in the Medical Assisting program, however, she did not complete it and decided to pursue the Phlebotomy program instead. She completed the Phlebotomy program, and based on her skills, the Boardman Training Center hired her as an instructor for the Phlebotomy program.

Another success story pertains to a pregnant participant who was enrolled in the RN program at Mercy College. She had her baby in March and was set to graduate in May. With the supportive services provided, she missed a minimal amount of class time and was able to complete program on time. She is now preparing to take the NCLEX exam and expected to pass.

### *Columbiana County*

A success story involves five participants who graduated from the Utica Shale Academy. MCTA recently signed an MOU with the academy to serve as an alternate secondary school. Without the academy, and its credit recovery option, these five participants would not have graduated on time.

Last year, work experience was limited due to the pandemic, however, this year, 35-40 worksites have been secured, and 80-85 participants have been authorized for placement. Overall, 28 seniors will be graduating.

### **Member Updates/Other Business**

*Columbiana County Youth Coordinator* – When Susie was promoted to MCTA COO, the Columbiana County Youth Coordinator position became vacant, and Angela Vollberg was promoted to fill the position. Angela was a Career Consultant prior to her promotion.

*Youth Services RFP* – The RFP for the WIOA-CCMEP youth services is in development and is scheduled to be released at the end of the year or beginning of next year.

*Next Meeting* – The next Youth Committee is scheduled for September 2, 2021 at 3pm.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.