

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

Youth Committee Meeting
June 1, 2023
3:00pm
YJATC Office

Committee Members Present: Jeremy Corbisello for Michelle Fitzsimmons, Ed Emerick, Marilyn Montes, Julie Needs, Meribeth Noble, and Scott Satterlee
Committee Members Absent: Joe Caruso
Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak
CCMEP Lead Agency Staff: Melissa Alfano, Dana Bowles, Susie Kooser, Leigh Samargia-Pflug, and Angela Vollberg

Ed Emerick, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm, and a quorum was established.

Approve March 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 2, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.
Motion made by: Scott Satterlee
Seconded by: Julie Needs
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Performance

Based on the information recently received from the State, performance appears to be satisfactory. Some reporting functions in ARIES are finally accessible. Efforts are being made to compare the ARIES data reports to the data being tracked internally to ensure accuracy. At this time, data related to “measurable skills gain” seems low, and data is not remaining in the ARIES system after it is entered. Data in ARIES continues to be verified monthly, and data entry has been streamlined by having one person enter all information into ARIES. With data entry being centralized, it allows frontline staff more time to work with customers. Data must be entered by June 30, 2023, to complete the final calculations for PY22 performance measures.

CCMEP State staff recently visited Area 17 to understand what is going well and what can be improved upon with CCMEP. ARIES State staff and representatives from Monster also visited the area to observe first-hand the challenges being experienced with the ARIES system.

Review of CCMEP Activity Report

The CCMEP Activity Report (July 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023) was provided and reviewed. Total active CCMEP participants is 350. During this timeframe, 819 referrals have been made to CCMEP, which is largely due to the outreach conducted. The outreach has also brought in significantly more participants who are non-mandated. The number of new Individual Opportunity Plans (IOPs) is 113; 40 participants are in the job readiness program; 103 are in subsidized work experience; 81 are in high school or preparing for their high school equivalency exam; 8 have attained their high school diploma or equivalency; 57 are enrolled in post-secondary training; 15 have completed training; and 113 have been placed in unsubsidized employment.

Compared to last year, there are 106 fewer participants, but 473 more referrals from various sources this year. Also, there are 9 fewer IOPs, 34 fewer participants in job readiness, and 46 more participants in work experience compared to last year. Participants in high school prep and credential attainment stayed the same, participants in post-secondary training and completion have tripled, and participants obtaining unsubsidized job placements have doubled.

The number of participants in the activities that impact performance are increasing. Caseloads are reviewed extensively prior to exiting a participant from the program to ensure they can remain successful.

Participants may need a significant amount of assistance and stay active in the program for a few years before they are exited. Since only 25% of WIOA youth funds can be spent on in-school youth, focus is given to the out-of-school youth population.

Extension/Modification of Youth Services Contract

At this time, contracts for all six youth service providers have been extended for another year. Recently, Utica Shale Academy submitted a request to raise the fee of its mentoring services from \$28/hour to \$75/hour. After offering mentoring for a year, Utica Shale Academy determined that the current fee does not adequately cover the cost of the service offered. The other youth service providers that offer mentoring charge \$68/hour and \$100/hour; the \$75/hour fee seems to be reasonable. The comment was made that finding individuals to do extra work during the summer and after-school is difficult to find.

Motion: To recommend the proposed modification for Utica Shale Academy to the Executive Committee as presented.

Motion made by: Scott Satterlee

Seconded by: Julie Needs

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

A request for proposal (RFP) is issued to competitively procure the 14 youth elements that must be available to CCMEP participants. In previous years, Area 17 only had two youth services providers, one in each county; currently, Area 17 has six youth service providers. Some providers may be the only one to offer a specific service that is required, or the same service may be offered by multiple providers. Choosing a provider may be based on the participant's personality or specific needs based on how the services are offered by the service provider. When all things are equal, the most cost-effective choice will be made. During the State staffs' recent visit regarding CCMEP, they indicated no other area procures like Area 17; other areas procure the entire program out to one provider. By allowing MCTA, as the CCMEP lead agency, to make referrals as appropriate, MCTA maintains some control in knowing how progress is being made with the participants.

County Updates / Success Stories

County Updates

In Mahoning County, outreach efforts continue with schools and graduating seniors.

In Columbiana County, many of the in-school youth have been in the program for a while. This year, 40 participants will be graduating from high school; this is the largest number of high school graduates at one time from CCMEP. The large number of graduating participants will contribute to the performance measure for measurable skills gain. The average length of time a participant stays in the program is 3 1/2 -4 years.

Success Stories

Various success stories about the graduates were shared. One graduate plans to stay in East Palestine to continue helping the community since the train derailment. Another graduate has been referring other students to participate in CCMEP; two referrals have been received.

The comment was made regarding the importance of this positive information being shared with the public. Choffin Career and Technical Center just had its highest graduation rate in years, however, this was never reported.

Member Updates/Other Business

MYCAP – MYCAP has a workforce program, and a symposium was scheduled to bring youth who may be unemployed or underemployed together. Due to a low registration count, the symposium will be rescheduled for the fall.

Foster Care Youth – Reaching youth who have transitioned out of foster care is a targeted group for CCMEP, however, they are very transient and become extremely difficult to reach. Bridges make referrals, however, only some are interested in CCMEP services.

Membership – There are currently 7 members on the Youth Committee; 3 members are needed for a quorum. The committee agreed that the current membership is appropriate to establish a quorum.

Next Meeting – The next Youth Committee is scheduled for September 7, 2023, at 3pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.