

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.
OF
MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES
Executive Committee Meeting
September 16, 2021
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Jim Burgham, Kelly Darney, Deann Davis, Brian Eskridge, Rachel Ketterman, Susie Kooser, Audrey Morales, and Mark Nicaastro
Committee Members Absent: None
WDB Member: Mark Ragozine
Board Staff: 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 Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda item as prepared.
Motion made by: Mark Nicaastro
Seconded by: Jim Burgham
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

WDB Policies

WDB Policy 1 – Virtual Meetings: A local policy was drafted based on the discussion held at the August meeting. The State recently issued a draft policy addressing virtual meetings on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. The State’s draft policy mentions that at least one Board member must be physically present at the designated meeting location for the public. In addition to requiring at least one WDB member be physically present at the designated meeting location, the Ohio WDB Directors felt the State added more restrictions than what was indicated in the Ohio Revised Code and plan to address their concerns during the policy comment period.

The suggestion was made to maintain the language originally discussed at the August meeting, which is based on the actual language stated in the Ohio Revised Code. If needed, changes can be made after the State’s final policy is issued.

The State’s policy also addresses WDB certification. The Area 17 WDB is scheduled to be recertified in February 2022.

PM Policy 6 – Supportive Services and Attachment 1: Language in the policy was changed to state that any authorized supportive services must be purchased within 90 days of the approval, with exceptions noted in Attachment 1.

Changes made to Attachment 1 include:

- The cost limit for childcare is the co-pay set by the CDJFS. An approval letter from the CDJFS is required, and childcare must follow CDJFS guidelines.
- The required documentation for a backpack/book bag has been updated to verify need.
- Individuals receiving ITA services must schedule any licensing/certification exams within 90 days of the ITA end date.
- The cost limit for professional work attire has been changed to \$300.

Motion: To accept the new WDB Policy 1 and updates to Program Policy 6 with Attachment 1 as discussed.
Motion made by: Jim Burgham
Seconded by: Rachel Ketterman
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

CCMEP Plan

The CCMEP plan for Area 17 was reviewed. The single plan encompasses Mahoning and Columbiana counties rather than develop separate plans, which was required previously. The plan template has been simplified and is due to the State September 30, 2021. Demographical information has been updated, and details have been incorporated regarding how the CCMEP plan aligns with the East Ohio regional plan.

Outreach efforts have increased, and based on a formula with the average of past year numbers, and compounded based on projected growth, it is anticipated that the following number of participants will be served annually:

- Required – 309 Mahoning County participants and Columbiana County participants;
- Volunteer – 10 Mahoning County participants and 30 Columbiana County participants, and;
- Co-Funded – 57 Mahoning County participants and 104 Columbiana County participants.

Motion: To accept the Area 17 CCMEP plan as presented.
Motion made by: Rachel Ketterman
Seconded by: Kelly Darney
Abstention: Susie Kooser
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Operations Update

Onsite services have increased slightly to 80%, however, the customer traffic still remains at lower levels.

The most recent CCMEP report was provided for review. Since July 1st, there have been 35 new enrollments, bringing the overall total of active participants to 520. 11 participants are also working in unsubsidized employment.

The Ohio To Work initiative has officially started as of September 1st, however, preliminary work is still being completed. An initial plan and budget have been proposed and submitted for Area 17. The initiative is scheduled to run until December 31, 2022. The intent of the initiative is to increase the number of job seekers coming in for services and entering the IT, healthcare, and manufacturing fields. Funding from Ohio to Work will go towards establishing a social media presence as a way to increase outreach efforts. In addition to MCTA, Trumbull County OMJ, Flying High, Inc., and Academy of Urban Scholars, United Returning Citizens has become a partner of the initiative.

Good of the Order

WDB Membership – Jim Klingensmith has indicated his interest to resign from the Board, and Jim Burgham has announced his retirement. The vacancies in the business and labor representation will need to be filled prior to the WDB certification process. Any business member suggestions can be provided to Mary Ann.

Since Jim Burgham also served as the Youth Committee chair, discussions have been held to select his replacement.

Youth RFP – The new youth RFP will be presented for approval at the November meeting.

CCCTC – CCCTC has applied for a State grant that addresses short-term certification programs for career and technical centers. The grant funding can be used to cover the costs of short-term training certification that is not covered by Pell. The award can be anywhere between \$1,000-\$500,000, and a decision is expected in a couple weeks. The cohesiveness and collaboration among partners in Area 17 was very helpful in preparing the proposal for the grant. CCCTC is also one of the top funded career and technical centers in Ohio. 67 LPNs are graduating tonight, and 74 new LPN students are starting next week.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.