

**Workforce Development Board, Inc. Meeting  
of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties – Area 17**

July 19, 2022

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00am

**Workforce Development Board Members Present:**

Theresa Berkenyi for Joe Caruso, Ralph Blanco, Megan Cowden for Rachel Ketterman, John Dance, Deann Davis, David Deibel, Dominic Donofrio, Ed Emerick, Joe Fiumara, RJ Fryan, Bryan Higgins, Terry Hutson for Chuck Adkins, Susie Kooser, Melissa Maiorano, Christina Miller for Art Daly, Marilyn Montes for Roger Beltz, William Moore, Audrey Morales, Funmi Olarewaju for La Mont English, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Troy Rhoades, Julie Rupert, Scott Satterlee, Jennifer Strank for Brian Eskridge, and Arisha Williams.

**Workforce Development Board Members Absent:**

John Dyce, James Ford, Rick Fryda, Matthew Golladay, LaTasha Johnson, Steve Kiraly, Rakia McRell, Julie Needs, Mark Nicastro, Erich Offenburg, and John Zehentbauer.

**Board Staff Present:** Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

**MCTA Staff Present:** Cyndy Bresnahan, Barbara Bush, Lynn Esposito, Jack Hile, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, and JoAnn Schuler.

**Guests:** Sarah Marino (RETAIN) and Kristen Womeldorff (ODJFS).

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place.

**Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion:	To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.
Motion made by:	Mark Ragozine
Seconded by:	Troy Rhoades
Discussion:	None
Motion approved.	

**Fiscal Agent Report**

The PY21 Financial Report through June 30, 2022, was provided for review. The PY21 carry-in amount is \$2.5 million, which is higher than usual. This is largely attributed to the need to spend special grant funds first, as well as the higher carry-in amounts from PY20 due to the pandemic.

**Director's Report**

*PY22 WIOA Allocations*

For its PY22 WIOA funding allocations, Area 17 received \$3.8 million; with the PY21 carry-in funds, \$6.3 million is available. The current CCMEP TANF funds available through September 30, 2022, is \$1.5 million; the new CCMEP TANF allocation will be available October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is anticipated that Area 17 will receive \$3 million in CCMEP TANF funds, which has been consistent over the past four years. Adequate funding is in place to provide funding for training, and given the different end dates with various funding sources, funds can be carried over into the next program year, which provides the opportunity to be proactive with future services.

*Special Grants*

In addition to the WIOA and CCMEP TANF funds, Area 17 has received funding for Phase 2 under the RETAIN grant.

Under Phase 1 of the RETAIN grant, Area 17 served as a pilot region for the research project which focused on developing and implementing a return-to-work/stay-at-work program for employed individuals who were injured off-the job. The State was successful in receiving additional funding for Phase 2 of the project, which started July 1<sup>st</sup>, and it will last for two years. Area 17 is expected to receive \$100,000 to support its outreach to inform employers about the program.

*State’s Case Management System – Advancement through Resources, Information, and Employment Services (ARIES)*

ARIES was implemented April 25<sup>th</sup> and replaced the previous case management system, and the conversion has not gone as smoothly as anticipated. ARIES is an off-the-shelf system and not as customizable as the previous system. Staff are still learning the functionality of ARIES, and some reporting limitations have been recognized. Currently, staff are unable to enter all relevant information that impacts the local area’s performance. Staff are also learning that some information is missing and was not transferred over from the previous system. The Ohio WDB Directors have petitioned the State to waive any ramifications if an area does not meet performance, however, the State indicated that a waiver is premature at this time, but will keep it in mind if it becomes an issue moving forward.

*MCTA Youngstown Office Relocation*

Due to the City of Youngstown receiving a brownfield grant to remediate the 20 West Federal Street building, MCTA and WDB staff will be relocating from its administrative office. The City would like tenants to relocate as quickly as possible. MCTA has requested an extension to relocate to adhere to procurement guidelines required for Federal funding.

*Employer Presentations*

If any members are interested in presenting information about their company at a WDB meeting, Mary Ann or Sharlene can be contacted.

*WDB Officer Elections*

The election for the 2023-2024 Area 17 WDB officers will be held at the October meeting. Request for nominations will be sent in September.

**Balanced Scorecard**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter PY21 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Out of the fifteen active measures, eight have met or exceeded the year-to-date target, three measures are within 10% of the year-to-date target, and four measures are not on target. The following explanations were provided for the four measures not on target:

- Line 11 (*# of Adults in WIOA Registered Services New PY21*) & Line 13 (*# of Dislocated Workers in WIOA Registered Services New PY21*) – The information was not updated since the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. New data is unavailable since reports are unable to be generated from ARIES at this time. Considering the known number of OJTs and training enrollments from the operator’s report, the average number of individuals in registered services would still fall short of the established year-to-date targets.
- Line 14 (*# of Youth with new CCMEP IOPs*) – The number of youth with new CCMEP IOPs remains low, however, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, contracts have been awarded to six youth services providers; in previous years, there was only one youth service provider in each county. With more youth service providers in place, more referrals to CCMEP are anticipated.
- Line 16 (*PY21 WIOA Funds Spent &/or Obligated*) – Given the higher amount of PY20 carry-in available, efforts were made to spend that funding first. The remaining PY21 funds have been carried over into PY22.

**Program Operator Report**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter PY21 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) Operator's Report was reviewed. After comparing data from PY19 and PY20, PY21 is within ten participants, and customer traffic is starting to increase. OJT activity has increased due to more employers hiring.

Long-term classroom training is down which can be attributed to individuals finding employment or taking advantage of short-term training opportunities. Average cost per participant has increased since OJT wages and tuition has increased.

*Ohio-to-Work*

Through the Ohio to Work initiative, Area 17 received nearly \$40,000 which is being used for an outside marketing firm to manage the OMJ center Facebook and Instagram accounts; a LinkedIn account will be created soon.

The OMJ centers were also provided with the YouScience online career assessment which will be in place through June 30, 2023. YouScience has been a valuable tool for customers. Once completed, customers can receive a summary of their skills, suggestions for what skills they can include on a resume, and how their skills can be adapted and transferred to other jobs. YouScience may also identify local employers in need of those skill sets.

Staff have also received training to become career coaches to specifically address the workforce needs of local employers. Staff have gone out into the community to visit employers, schools, and training centers to learn first-hand about the opportunities available in Mahoning and Columbiana counties.

Meetings have been held to discuss the sustainability of Ohio-to-Work, and many of the services were already being offered prior to the initiative. The initiative has been valuable in providing additional outreach and attracting more customers into the OMJ centers.

*On-the-Job Training (OJTs)*

An OJT flyer was provided for review. The OJT program can provide wage reimbursement if the employer and employee meet the eligibility requirements. Cyndy Bresnahan, Business Services Manager, can be contacted for more information.

*Job Orders*

Staff-assisted job orders can also be submitted through the OMJ centers. A job order form was provided, and an electronic form is also available. The form can be completed and submitted to Cyndy Bresnahan. The information will be entered into OhioMeansJobs.com to match qualified job seekers with the employer's needs.

*Youth & Young Adult Employment Opportunities*

WDB members can assist with CCMEP by offering job shadowing opportunities for youth participants participating in work readiness or work experience. Flyers for CCMEP were provided for members to post and share with employees.

**Presentation – RETAIN Grant Program, Sarah Marino, Research Coordinator – Referral and Enrollment, Bon Secours Mercy Health**

Sarah Marino provided an overview about the Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN), which is collaboration between Mercy Health and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. RETAIN is funded through a \$18.8 million grant from the US Department of Labor.

The program is a return-to-work/stay-at work research model that focuses on individuals who have non-occupational injuries that would keep people off from work for an extended period. RETAIN has a health services coordinator who serves as a liaison between the employer, injured employee, and health services provider to ensure open and direct communication is exchanged.

To qualify for the program, patients must have a non-occupational injury or cardiac illness, between the ages of 18-65, currently employed or seeking employment, have a Mercy Health physician or practitioner,

and not have filed for social security disability benefit. Outreach is also being conducted for employers to enroll in the RETAIN study.

Under Phase 1 of the RETAIN grant, which was only comprised of the Youngstown area, 210 patients and 123 physicians/practitioners were enrolled in the study. For Phase 2, the goal is to enroll 1,100 patients, 35 physicians/practitioners, and 150 employers. Employer enrollment is the primary focus, and efforts are being made to educate the value of having a return-to-work/stay-at-work policy in place for employers. Employees enrolled in the study receives a \$100 gift card, as well as support from a registered nurse, a social worker, and other resources than can assist with daily activities and lifestyle changes.

**Meeting Evaluation**

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

**Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order**

*OhioMeansJobs Center Newsletter – The Connection*, the biannual Area 17 OhioMeansJobs center newsletter, was distributed to members. *The Connection* will be issued in January and July.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35am.