

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

Youth Committee Meeting
September 2, 2021
3:00pm
IBEW Local 64 Office

Committee Members Present: Jim Burgham, Ed Emerick, and Nancy Romeo for Joe Caruso
Committee Members Absent: Roger Beltz, Michelle Fitzsimmons, Kyle Kiraly, and 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 Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as presented.
Motion made by: Ed Emerick
Seconded by: Nancy Romeo
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Review of CCMEP Activity Report and Success Stories

As of August 31, 2021, Area 17 has 520 active participants enrolled in CCMEP, with a fairly equal number of participants in each county. Since July 1, 2021, there have been 35 new enrollments, 17 participants in a job readiness program, 8 in work experience, 69 in high school/high school equivalency preparation, 10 in post-secondary training, 2 completed training, and 11 gained unsubsidized employment. Overall participation in CCMEP is still lower due to the level of uncertainty regarding the pandemic. Outreach efforts continue to target the in-school and out-of-school youth population to inform them that the program is still operating and services are available. MCTA staff will be attending the Skilled Trades Expo later this month. The expo will be attended by many 7th-12th grade students and young adults. The outreach available through the Ohio to Work initiative is also expected to provide additional exposure to CCMEP.

Mahoning County Success Story – A female participant was in the work readiness program. She was very quiet and had some medical issues. She interviewed with Windsor House, opened up during the interview, and asked all the right questions. She was hired and has been working there ever since. Windsor House will hire MCTA participants when they have openings, and provide them with STNA training.

Columbiana County Success Story – A female participant had a difficult home life, terrible attitude, and legal issues. She was provided with mentoring services, and over time, she became more pleasant and respectable. With assistance from MCTA, she was able to return to school onsite and was provided with a tutor and a credit recovery option. She is currently scheduled to graduate in May. MCTA has also received additional participant referrals through the school.

Another participant, who is on the spectrum, was pursuing the physical therapy assistant program at Kent State University. He was having difficulty finishing his classes, however, he was able to get his grades up, and MCTA was able to fund his classes. He graduated and is working at a physical therapy practice making \$20/hour.

County Updates

Mahoning County

At the moment, focus is on the recruitment process, particularly with classroom training and asking training providers to recommend MCTA to participants who may need additional financial aid. The job readiness program with Compass has been redesigned to be more condensed. It was virtual during the pandemic but has since returned to in-person classes. The job readiness program is now 2 hours per day, 4 days a week, for 2 weeks. Once participants complete the job readiness program, they can move on to work experience. The objective is to get participants motivated to work.

Columbiana County

Work experience for the in-school youth will be extended to keep them engaged and hours will be reduced to 10 hours per week. Current work sites will be utilized and additional sites will be added. The business advisory councils may also be a good resource for recruiting work sites. Approximately 50 in-school youth will be working. Various work experience opportunities allow youth to explore different fields and learn that college is not the only career option after graduating from high school. MCTA brochures can be provided to the trades for individuals who apply to the programs but may not be suitable. Discussion was held regarding how youth need to understand the importance of soft skills and good communication with employers.

Member Updates/Other Business

Retirement – Jim Burgham will be retiring at the end of the year. Efforts are being made to find a representative from organized labor to serve on the Board. A new Youth Committee Chair will also need to be appointed through the Executive Committee. The room at the IBEW Local 64 office will remain available for meetings.

Jim was also honored at the Regional Chamber's Salute to Business event for his role in labor. His personal presentation to the audience was very well-received. Appreciation was also extended for his service to the Board and Youth Committee over the past several years.

Youth Services RFP – The RFP for the WIOA-CCMEP youth services is in development and is scheduled to be released in December. A member of the Youth Committee will be asked to be on the proposal review team.

2022 Meeting Schedule – The 2022 meeting schedule follows the same format as previous years. Meeting will be held on the first Thursdays in March, June, September, and December.

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

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.