

**Workforce Development Board, Inc. Meeting
of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties – Area 17**
January 17, 2023
Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites
8:00am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Megan Cowden for Rachel Ketterman, John Dance, Dominic Donofrio, Ed Emerick, Joe Fiumara, James Ford, Susie Kooser, Melissa Maiorano, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, Marilyn Montes, William Moore, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Julie Needs, Mark Nicastro, Meribeth Noble, Mark Ragozine, Troy Rhoades, Julie Rupert, Scott Satterlee, Jennifer Strank for Brian Eskridge, and Arisha Williams.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Chuck Adkins, Ralph Blanco, Joe Caruso, Arthur Daly, Deann Davis, David Deibel, John Dyce, LaMont English, Matthew Golladay, Bryan Higgins, RJ Fryan, Steve Kiraly, Erich Offenburg, and Marcy Patton.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

MCTA Staff Present: Cyndy Bresnahan, Barbara Bush, Carla Colonello, Lynn Esposito, Jack Hile, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, and Leigh Samargia-Pflug.

Mr. Nicastro 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: Julie Rupert
Seconded by: James Ford
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

PY22 WDB Monitoring Report

Legislation and local administrative policy require monitoring of the program operator on an annual basis. This is in addition to the State’s monitoring and the Single Audit. Oversight of program operator activities is conducted on a routine basis throughout the year, however, at mid-point of the program year, a desk review of the files is completed. The three categories reviewed were participant eligibility, OJT contracts, and fiscal operations. The review began November 3, 2022, and was completed at the end of December 2022. Upon completion of the review, there were no significant findings.

Motion: To approve the Area 17 PY22 Mid-Year Monitoring Report as presented.
Motion made by: Mark Ragozine
Seconded by: Lori Murphy
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY22 Financial Report through December 31, 2022, was provided for review. There is \$2.1 million left to spend in PY21 and PY22 funds. The majority of funds remaining is WIOA Youth; PY21 funds will be fully spent, and PY22 funds are intended to be fully spent by the middle of next year.

Balanced Scorecard

The 2nd Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed. Area 17 is currently meeting or exceeding all but three of the measures. One measure is in progress, which is Line 6 – Total One-Stop Visits. The two measures not on target include Line 4 – # of Employers with Staff-Assisted Job Orders and # of Youth with new CCMEP IOPs.

Moving forward, the number of staff-assisted job orders will be monitored monthly. The number of referrals to the CCMEP have been steady, however, no more than 25% of WIOA Youth funding can be spent on in-school youth, and the PY21 funding has reached this limit. The remaining of the PY21 WIOA Youth funds must be spent before PY22 in-school youth funding can be utilized, and this has slowed down the IOP enrollments. The intake process is still being conducted, however, new eligible customers are being placed on a waiting list. The State has been contacted to determine if funding can still be spent on the in-school youth participants already enrolled in the program.

Program Operator Report*Operator's Report*

The 2nd Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022) Operator's Report was reviewed. OJT enrollments are higher than this time last year. This increase can be attributed to outreach and reaching out to employers that utilized the program previously, but now have new personnel staff in place. Overall, enrollments in training programs have increased by 12% compared to this time last year. The OMJ traffic continues to improve, with an increase of 1,400 visits compared to this time last year.

Ohio to Work

The Ohio to Work initiative officially ended December 31, 2022. A final report has not been issued yet, but preliminary numbers show that all goals for our area have been met or exceeded. The YouScience assessment is also available for use until December 31, 2023. In February, a YouScience workshop will be offered at the OMJ center in Mahoning County.

Fresh Start Grant

The Fresh Start grant provides funding to assist individuals who have been impacted by the opioid crisis in some way or who plans to enter a field to assist with the opioid crisis. The grant will end March 31, 2024. Based on 3rd quarter numbers, 35 customers have received career services (goal is 84), 6 received training/supportive services (goal is 67), and 107 employers have been contacted to consider hiring individuals in recovery (goal is 100).

OMJ Satellite

The OMJ satellite at Oak Hill is now open Tuesdays and Thursday, 9am-4pm. Some traffic is coming through, and two individuals staff the site both days of the week.

Director's Report*Monitoring of One-Stop Operator Contract*

The WDB staff will monitor the One-Stop operator contract next week. MCTA, as the Area 17 One-Stop Operator, will be assessed on program facilities, outreach, job seekers services, collaboration, customer data collection, performance measures and continuous improvement. The results from the monitoring will be presented to the Executive Committee to determine if the contract with MCTA will be recommended for another year.

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

ARIES continues to have data integrity issues. There were problems with missing information from the initial data migration from the previous system, however, new data entered into the system is also missing. Staff have developed spreadsheets to track data and run reports, however, this has created duplicate efforts with documentation. The lack of accurate information in ARIES can also negatively impact the federal performance measures for local areas. In July 2022, the Ohio WDB Directors asked the State to not hold any areas accountable

for failed performance measures given the issues with ARIES, however, the State felt it was too soon to consider the request. In October 2022, the State reconsidered the WDB Directors' request and stated that failed measures for PY21 will not be counted against local areas related to area redesignation criteria, but areas will still be accountable for any failed measures.

Regional/Local Plan

The regional and local plans were submitted to the State two years ago and are now due to be reviewed. Area 17 is part of the East region, which also includes Area 6 (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties) and Area 18 (Trumbull County). Members will be notified if any modifications will be made to the regional and/or local plans.

Presentation: National Funding Hub/Regional Workforce Coalition – Melissa Maiorano, Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

Melissa Maiorano provided an overview of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber's recent economic and workforce development accomplishments in the area.

In 2021, the Regional Chamber was selected as the subcontractor to implement JobsOhio's Ohio To Work (OTW) initiative in the Mahoning Valley region. Partners of the initiative included the OMJ centers, Flying High, Inc., National Center for Urban Solutions, and United Returning Citizens. The intent of the initiative was to recruit, reskill, and reemploy individuals in the manufacturing, IT, and healthcare industries with the resources already available. Goals established for OTW were met or exceeded.

The Regional Chamber was tasked to create a resource guide to serve the business community. In July 2022, the Regional Chamber launched the Workforce Educational and Training Guide, which highlights partners who can offer relevant services, to assist with business retention, expansion, and attraction. Moving forward, the guide is expected to include high schools, unions, and apprenticeships to make it more of a community guide.

Currently, the Regional Chamber is leading the Regional Workforce Coalition. The Regional Chamber wants to build a system to utilize local, regional, and state resources, which has led to the National Funding Hub. In partnership with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, the Regional Chamber has brought together five counties in northeast Ohio to create a platform to identify opportunities, share the opportunities with the area, and respond appropriately. This platform will allow the area to become more competitive and strategic for new and sustainable opportunities.

Meeting Evaluation

WDB members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

MCDJFS – Ohio has decided that SNAP and medical benefits will no longer be under the national health emergency status. The change will take effect in March, and many individuals will no longer be eligible for benefits, or benefits will be decreased.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40am.