

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

Individuals with Disabilities Committee Meeting
January 10, 2019
9:00am
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Shirley Bowald, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Rob Folsom for Rick Fryda, Matt Golladay, Brenda Heidinger, Mary Ann Kochalko, Joyce Loychik for Joe Caruso, Marcy Patton, and Troy Rhoades

Committee Members Absent: Jim Klingensmith

Adjunct Members: Jack Hile, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, Shannon Thomas, and Jennifer Strank

Board Staff: Bert Cene and Sharlene Senediak

Guest: Cyndy Bresnahan (OMJ) and Ron Klonowski (OOD)

Mr. Eskridge, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda item as prepared.
Motion made by: Shirley Bowald
Seconded by: Matt Golladay
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Committee Membership

Motion: To approve Ed Emerick as a member to the Committee.
Motion made by: Mary Ann Kochalko
Seconded by: Shirley Bowald
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

A draft committee roster was also distributed for review. The roster will be updated as needed.

Guest Speaker, Ron Klonowski, Business Relations Specialist, OOD

Ron Klonowski, the OOD Business Relations Specialist for the area, explained his role with employers. The OOD Business Relations Specialist meets with HR to discuss the employer services offered by OOD, to explain the advantages of hiring OOD customers, and to learn more about the employment needs of the company. The Business Relations Specialist may ask for job descriptions to help employers think-outside-the-box regarding available positions to consider. If a partnership is agreed upon, the information is shared with the OOD Talent Sourcing Coordinator, who will work with counselors to determine an appropriate match, and pre-screen OOD customers to interview for available positions.

Job fairs, hiring events, and disability training (Windmills) are other employer services offered by OOD. A Worksite Accessibility Specialist was recently hired to address questions employers have regarding ADA compliance. Services are available at no charge. The Business Resource Network (BRN) can also share this information with employers.

Guest Speaker, Shannon Thomas, Job Developer, OOD

Shannon Thomas, the OOD Job Developer in the area, explained her role with the Business Relations Specialist and OOD case managers. Hiring events have recently been held, which was a result from the Tri-County Placement Network. The hiring events are specifically for OOD customers and employers that have open positions. OOD pre-screens potential candidates, and once candidates with the appropriate

qualifications are selected, an interview will be scheduled with the employer. So far, 28 OOD customers have been hired through these events. A business advisory council has also been created for local employers to join. An informational event was held for the council, and many hiring events have been scheduled as a result. OOD would like to expand the hiring events into Columbiana County and host the scheduled interviews at the OhioMeansJobs center. The OhioMeansJobs center in Mahoning County can also host the scheduled interviews.

The suggestion was made for OOD to present its business services information at the April WDB meeting.

DOL Opioid Grant

The State's first opioid grant proposal was not successful, however, the second grant proposal was awarded. The second grant is a Dislocated Worker grant, with an emphasis on the opioid crisis. Mahoning County will receive approximately \$600,000. A meeting is scheduled for January 31st with the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and its providers to share information about the workforce services available to their customers, as well as learn about the services available through the providers. A meeting with the Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Board and providers can also be scheduled.

A proposal is also being developed for a third grant, which would also include Columbiana County. The third grant is also a Dislocated Worker grant, but a decision has not been made yet.

DOL RETAIN Grant

Area 17 and 18 are participating in a DOL RETAIN grant awarded to the State. The purpose of the project is to establish a referral system like BWC for those who are injured off the job and assist them back to work more quickly. Mercy Health will be the healthcare provider and lead for the project. The role of the workforce system in this project is to inform employers about this opportunity.

Member Updates

General Motors – A transition center has been established at the UAW 1112 Union Hall to offer information about employment services available. A job fair will be held on March 20th for those impacted by the GM plant closing.

Ohio Pet Foods – The plant in Lisbon is at or near capacity, and people are still needed. Workers impacted by the GM closing may find employment opportunities with Ohio Pet Foods.

CCMHR SB – A provider is interested in offering workforce-related employment placement services to those who are in recovery in Columbiana County. Efforts are being made share information about resources already available in the community.

Guest Invite Ideas

Members were asked to offer suggestions for guests who may benefit from the committee or who the committee can benefit from as well.

Other Business/Next Steps

Identifying Barriers – Transportation is a major barrier for individuals with disabilities. A Transportation Planning Committee is active in Columbiana County, and Mobility Manager is available to provide solutions to transportation issues. OMEGA is looking to identify where transportation is being utilized and where it is still needed. Other options to address transportation issues were discussed. A transportation survey will be sent to the committee to share with employers. The suggestion was made to invite the Mobility Manager to a meeting.

Reader Apps – *Seeing AI* is a free, Microsoft app for the visually-impaired. *Be My Eyes* is another app and is free for participants and volunteers.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.