

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.
OF
MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES
Executive Committee Meeting
June 15, 2023
OhioMeansJobs Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Kelly Darney, Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Susie Kooser, Audrey Morales, Mark Nicaastro, and Mark Ragozine
Committee Members Absent: Rachel Ketterman
Board Staff Present: 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 Item

Motion: To approve the consent agenda item, with the correct adjournment time changed to 12:50pm.
Motion made by: Mark Nicaastro
Seconded by: Ed Emerick
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Approval of Modification for Youth Services Contracts

Utica Shale Academy – Utica Shale Academy has requested to increase its cost for mentoring from \$28/hour to \$75/hour and to remove language distinguishing whether a mentor is a certified or non-certified teacher. The Youth Committee approved to recommend the modification to the Executive Committee for approval.

Discussion regarding the significant cost increase was held. As a first-time WIOA-CCMEP youth services contractor for Area 17, Utica Shale Academy may have not anticipated the actual work required for mentoring the participants. Mentoring is also only authorized in time allotments on an as needed basis. Initially, they also thought they would only be working with CCMEP participants who attend Utica Shale Academy, however, MCTA had asked them to provide services to out-of-school youth. To do so, the services must be provided after hours, and a higher wage is needed to attract mentors to hire. Referrals are authorized by MCTA, and costs will be monitored. The suggestion was made to calculate how an increase in cost would impact the agency's expenses for any future cost increases.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the Youth Committee and accept the modification for the youth services contract with Utica Shale Academy as presented.
Motion made by: Ed Emerick
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Aye: Deann Davis, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Susie Kooser, Audrey Morales, and Mark Ragozine.
Nay: Mark Nicaastro
Abstention: Kelly Darney
Motion approved.

Compass Family and Community Services – Compass Family and Community Services has requested to increase its cost for mentoring from \$64/hour to \$80/hour, to increase its cost of work experience from \$14.95/hour to \$16.95/hour, and to increase its OJT coaching supports from \$64/hour to \$80/hour. The increase in costs experienced this year is the reason for the request.

Motion: To accept the modification for the youth services contract with Compass Family and Community Services as presented.
Motion made by: Brian Eskridge
Seconded by: Mark Ragozine
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Academy for Urban Scholars – Academy for Urban Scholars has indicated it no longer wants to be a WIOA-CCMEP youth contractor after June 30, 2023. They are unable to continue under the referral process concept; they were not receiving enough referrals from MCTA to provide the services. Referrals are made to youth services contractors when the service is deemed appropriate for the participant.

Motion: To nullify the modification approved on March 16, 2023, for the youth services contract with Academy for Urban Scholars.
Motion made by: Ed Emerick
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

WDB Policy Updates

WDB Program Policy 3 – Individual Training Accounts (ITAs): Language was added to indicate that an Adult or Dislocated Worker must be a resident of Mahoning or Columbiana counties or be dislocated from an employer located in Mahoning or Columbiana counties. A Youth must also be a resident of Mahoning or Columbiana counties. Due to the recent decreases in funding, these changes are being proposed to focus on serving the people in Area 17, rather than people from other counties.

WDB Policy 1 – On-the-Job Training (OJT): Language was added that OJT agreements can only be written with appropriate employers located within Mahoning and Columbiana counties.

Motion: To accept revisions to WDB Program Policy 1 and WDB Program Policy 3 as presented.
Motion made by: Mark Ragozine
Seconded by: Mark Nicaastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

OMJ Partner MOU Addendum

All the signatures for the OMJ partner MOU have been obtained with the exception of Serrato Corporation, which is the current Job Corps operator. The new Job Corps operator for Area 17 has not been officially selected yet, which prevents Serrato from signing the MOU. A decision should be made by July 31, 2023. Addendum A indicates that Serrato Corporation is unable to sign the MOU until an operator has been selected. Until an operator is designated, MCTA will cover the cost of the Job Corps operator.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the One-Stop Committee and accept MOU Addendum A as presented.
Motion made by: Ed Emerick
Seconded by: Brian Eskridge
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Operations Update

OMJ Website

The new local OMJ website is scheduled to go live July 1st. A soft launch of the website will be conducted next week for staff to review. The site will also be shared with the Committee to review.

ARIES

On June 9th, MCTA programmatic staff attended a regional ARIES training in Canton. Updates were shared, and many questions were answered. They are looking to utilize social security numbers to identify customers in the system.

Last month, State staff visited Area 17 to learn more about the issues being experienced with ARIES. They were very receptive to what they heard, and a representative from the Governor's office was also in attendance.

Some ARIES data reports are starting to become available again. Reports will be generated and compared to local databases to compare for accuracy.

Security

Additional safety measures are being explored for the OMJ center in Mahoning County. Focus will be given to security equipment to safeguard various doors in the center.

Director's Update

ARIES/Monitoring

Although improvements are being made to ARIES, a memo was recently issued stating that since incorrect data is still being identified by monitors, areas will not be required to submit continuous improvement plans for PY22 data findings. When ARIES is fixed, areas can re-enter the data, and the information will be reviewed the next program year. Given the continued inaccuracy of the data, WDB Directors have asked the State not to impose ramifications on areas with failed PY22 performance measures.

Funding for PY23

Total WIOA PY23 WIOA allocations is \$3,210,966, which is a 16.4% decrease from PY22 WIOA allocations. The estimated PY22 carry-in is \$3,527,415, making the total available in WIOA funding for PY23 \$5,559,858. An additional \$528,823 is available from special grants, and the anticipated youth TANF allocation is \$3,000,000. Overall, the total anticipated PY23 funding is approximately \$9,088,681.

Letter of Support

Two letters of support were provided in relation to the Workforce Opportunity Rural Communities (WORC) grant applications. One letter was provided to YSU to upscale its 5G training program; the other letter was provided to Oh-Penn to replicate MVMC for the region.

Good of the Order

No items were reported.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.