

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

October 17, 2023

Best Western Plus Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

8:00am

Workforce Development Board Members Present:

Chuck Adkins, Courtney Amendola for Rachel Ketterman, Theresa Berkenyi for Joe Caruso, Kim Berry, Deann Davis, David Deibel, Ed Emerick, Joe Fiumara, John Frankovitch, Mark Goffinet for William Moore, Bryan Higgins, Cody Hilliard, Marty Loney, Steve Lyons for Brian Eskridge, Melissa Maiorano, Mary Mihalopoulos for John Zehentbauer, Marilyn Montes, Lori Murphy for Audrey Morales, Julie Needs, Mark Nicaastro, Meribeth Noble, Marcy Patton, Mark Ragozine, Julie Rupert, Jason Schnabl, Randy Swogger, Jason White for LaMont English, Susie Wickline, and Arisha Williams.

Workforce Development Board Members Absent:

Ralph Blanco, Art Daly, Dominic Donofrio, James Ford, RJ Fryan, and Matt Golladay.

Board Staff Present: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak.

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

Guests: Ishmael Brown (Choffin).

Ms. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00am after verification of a quorum, and introductions took place. New members Kim Berry (Fireline, Inc.), John Frankovitch, (Pier 48), Cody Hilliard (IBEW Local 64), and Randy Swogger (ServePro) were also welcomed to the Board.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: To approve the consent agenda items as prepared.
Motion made by: Lori Murphy
Seconded by: Mark Nicaastro
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Authorization to Support CCMEP

The Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) is the youth services program in Ohio. TANF funds are made available to fund CCMEP; WIOA funds, however, must be authorized by local WDBs to use for the program before TANF funds can be used. The authorization is usually issued with the ODJFS subgrant agreement, but it was delayed this year. The start date would take effect on July 1, 2023.

Motion: To authorize the use of WIOA Youth funds for the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program during the 2024-2025 State Fiscal Biennium that begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2025.
Motion made by: Ed Emerick
Seconded by: Julie Rupert
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Fiscal Agent Report

The PY23 Financial Report through September 30, 2023, was provided for review. During the 1st quarter, Area 17 spent slightly over \$2 million on programmatic and overhead expenses. If it was not for the substantial amount of carry-in from PY22, Area 17 would not have been able to fund participants for this quarter. The total PY23 funds available for participants is approximately \$3 million.

From a federal perspective, Congress passed a continuing resolution to extend the budget negotiations through November 17th to avoid a government shutdown. WIOA is also due to be reauthorized and has been operating under a continuing resolution for the past few years. Both the House and Senate have prepared proposals, which have been vastly different, but reauthorization is anticipated for next year. Many organizations have been advocating for WIOA and the workforce development system.

Given the uncertainty of future funding, Area 17 has taken a conservative approach to spending. If WIOA is not reauthorized and only remains under a continuing resolution, the State has informed local areas to expect another decrease like this year. MCTA has minimized expenses where it can, while also serving as many customers as possible. Although MCTA is in priority status and can only serve those with certain barriers, OMJ services are not impacted.

Balanced Scorecard

The 1st Quarter PY22 (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023) Balanced Scorecard was reviewed.

Line 11 – # of Adult-eligible for WIOA Registered Services (New PY23) and Line 12 – # of Dislocated Worker-eligible for WIOA Registered Services (New PY23) were previously removed since ARIES was unable to provide the necessary data. Reporting functionality in ARIES appears to be working again, and the measures have been added back.

Area 17 met or exceeded 12 of the 16 measures. The remaining 4 measures were not met, which include Line 7 – Total New One-Stop Visits, Line 8 – # of Cross-Trainings, Line 13 – # of CCMEP Youth IOPs (New PY23), and Line 15 – PY23 WIOA Funds Spent &/or Obligated.

For Line 7, staff are still figuring out how to capture visits at all locations within the customer tracking system. Also, traffic may be down due to people knowing that MCTA is in priority status for funding. For Line 8, 5 cross-trainings were scheduled, however, one was canceled. This measure is anticipated to be met or exceeded in the next quarter. For Line 13, it remains difficult to find TANF-eligible out-of-school youth to come in to learn more about services. For Line 15, PY22 carry-in funds must be spent first before using PY23 funds. As mentioned previously, MCTA is taking a conservative approach with spending until more information is known about federal appropriations and WIOA authorization.

Program Operator Report*Operator's Report*

The 1st Quarter PY23 (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023) Operator's Report was reviewed. During this time, 142 individuals are enrolled in training services, compared to 184 this time last year. 142 individuals are considered satisfactory given the limited funding. Of these 142 participants, 85% are enrolled in OJT or short-term training. In-person and virtual visits are still split 80/20.

On October 6th, State staff visited Area 17 to review the RESEA process in place. They wanted feedback to understand what is and is not working. They also offered information as to what they would like to see happen in the future. Other State staff will be visiting the area to review the local Rapid Response process.

The MCTA in-service day will be held on Friday, November 10th. Staff will be trained in various scenarios to understand how each department plays a role in helping customers reach self-sufficiency and employment.

Director's Report

Final PY21 WIOA Performance

The final PY21 WIOA performance report was recently issued. Although there are 15 measures, data was only obtained for 6, due to data issues in the ARIES system. Area 17 met the 6 measures successfully, and MCTA staff believe the other measures would have been met as well.

On September 26th, ODJFS issued a letter stating that areas will not be penalized for failed PY22 performance measures due to the unreliability of data in ARIES.

WDB Recertification

WDBs must be recertified by the State every 2 years; Area 17 WDB is due to be recertified in March 2024. Information will be compiled to show that WDB member composition and the nomination process comply with WIOA legislation.

Population Shift and Employment

On a previous meeting evaluation, an inquiry was made about population shifts and employment. Data was provided to show that Ohio's population is projected to decline by approximately 675,000 by 2050. Ohio is also the 7th most populous state.

Although Ohio is declining in total population, Ohio is net-importing individuals for the first time in 50 years. The median age in Ohio is 39.3 years-old, and 17.8% of population is aged 65 years and over.

Ohio's civilian labor force has remained steady for the last two years, however, remains lower compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The State is encouraging workforce development professionals and employers to do what they can to bring people back into the workforce. The State offers many programs for employers to hire individuals who may have barriers. The State also offers programs for individuals to re-enter and/or stay in the workforce. There is a strong focus on educating middle school and high school students about the career opportunities available in Ohio to keep them from relocating to another state.

Partner and Business Member Updates/Good of the Order

MYCAP

A workforce symposium is scheduled for November 15th. The purpose of the symposium is to gain feedback from individuals who are unemployed, or who want to change careers, about the challenges they are facing, and what they feel they need to overcome those challenges.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40am.