

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

Individuals with Disabilities Committee Meeting
October 13, 2022
9:00am
OhioMeansJobs Center Mahoning County

Committee Members Present: Shirley Bowald, Cecelia Carrera for Matt Golladay, Ed Emerick, Brian Eskridge, Susie Kooser, and Marcy Patton
Committee Members Absent: Joe Caruso, Brenda Heidinger, Erich Offenburg, and Troy Rhoades
Adjunct Members: Ashlee Iannucci, Patty Koehnlein, and Carol Ramsay-Loomis
Board Staff: Mary Ann Kochalko and Sharlene Senediak
Guests: Lauren Mathews, Jennifer Renaldy, Mirta Reyes-Chapman, Sydney Williams

Mr. Eskridge, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am after verification of a quorum, and introductions were made.

Approval of July 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the July 14, 2022 meeting minutes as prepared.
Motion made by: Shirley Bowald
Seconded by: Ed Emerick
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Acceptance of 2023 Meeting Schedule

Motion: To accept the 2023 meeting schedule as prepared.
Motion made by: Marcy Patton
Seconded by: Ed Emerick
Discussion: None
Motion approved.

Guest Speaker – Sydney Williams, New Day Recovery

Sydney Williams, Chief Development Officer of New Day Recovery, provided an overview of available services. New Day Recovery is an inpatient treatment program which offers a full continuum of treatment, such as recovery housing, counseling, and staffing services.

New Day Recovery opened its doors in 2016 and has made it a priority to reduce the barriers and stigma related to addiction. Many external barriers for individuals involve time, accessibility, and financial concerns; internal barriers involve stigma, psychological distress, and personal beliefs. New Day Recovery addresses these barriers by offering different levels of care and treatment to meet the needs of individuals; offering transportation; allowing admission into treatment 7 days a week; providing information about programs; accepting Medicaid and other potential insurance coverage; educating the public about addiction; providing medical and clinical best practices that focus on psychiatric and physiological needs; and linking clients to support services through case management.

In 2022, New Day Recovery has served approximately 2,300 patients, with most patients from Mahoning County, followed by Cuyahoga, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties.

The non-profit Valley Recovery Partners will be launching soon. This non-profit will focus on career development, resume building, career coaching, and interview coaching. The staffing services in place have

developed relationships with employers to help clients find full-time work around their recovery treatment schedule. Medical services are available, offering clients access to primary care.

A new location in Niles will also be opening soon. The facility will provide 80,000+ sq. ft. of inpatient treatment space, with 100+ withdrawal management (detox) and residential treatment beds, and unique amenities, such as 2 gyms, a men's barbershop and women's salon.

Employment is extremely important to a person's recovery as it builds confidence and financial stability to maintain a post-recovery standard of living. Employers can also serve as a vital resource by referring employees to New Day Recovery EAP/SAP service in Austintown; for many individuals, this may be their first experience receiving assistance. Although the stigma related to addiction still exists, there are employers who have hired individuals in recovery and are pleased with their performance. Many individuals in recovery want to help others and eventually become peer recovery supporters.

MCTA has received an opioid grant called Fresh Start, which can be used to assist eligible participants who have been directly impacted by the opioid crisis, know someone who has been impacted by opioids, or plans to pursue a career in a field that assists in recovery. The goal for the 25-month grant is to serve 84 participants. At the end of Quarter 2, 38 employers were provided information and assistance, 24 participants are receiving services, with 4 enrolled in training, and 20 more individuals are in the pipeline to receive services.

Guest Speakers – Lauren Mathews and Jennifer Renaldy, OOD/Jobs for Recovery

OOD focuses on helping individuals with disabilities overcome barriers to employment. A component of OOD's commitment to individuals in recovery is the partnership with the drug court system, which is known as the Jobs for Recovery program.

OOD representatives Lauren Mathews and Jennifer Renaldy work with various Mahoning County courts to assist individuals with previous or pending charges gain employment. Recovery is the primary focus, but support in all areas in their lives is essential for individuals to remain successful in their recovery and employment. The ability for agencies to collaborate with one another to help individuals is critical to their success. With the OOD representatives being in the courts to offer counseling and job development, the individuals are familiar with them from the beginning, which is beneficial for building a trusting relationship. Focus is always given to what can be done, rather than on what cannot be done, and services are individualized based on each person's needs.

The Jobs for Recovery program is only in a few counties throughout Ohio. The program in Mahoning County is the first to start post-COVID, and the program may expand to those outside the court system. The request was made to provide information to Columbiana County courts about the services available so referrals can be made to OOD.

RETAIN Grant Update

A statewide RETAIN meeting was held and the possibility to expand the eligible diagnoses was discussed. Currently, acute musculoskeletal and cardiac conditions are eligible under the grant; consideration is being given to including conditions related to mental health and gastric bypass, which may be related to the musculoskeletal and cardiac conditions.

Member Updates

CCBDD – On October 28th, the Board will be at Chef Ray's in Calcutta to promote National Disabilities Employment Awareness month. Anyone who comes between 10:30am-1:30pm can receive a free beverage.

CCMHR SB – The Counseling Center of Columbiana County is sponsoring a peer recovery support training in Columbiana County in November. Information will be shared with the committee to spread the word.

Guest Invite Ideas

Ohio's Department of Commerce launched a Recovery Within Reach program in August. The program focuses on educating consumers about the financial impact of opioid misuse and how to get help. A toolkit is available, and representatives are willing to talk to people about the program. The website for more information is www.recoverywithinreach.ohio.gov.

Other Business/Next Steps

No other business was reported.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.