

**NORTHEAST OHIO CONSORTIUM (“NOC”)
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ANNUAL - MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2017

1:30 p.m.

OMJ-Ashtabula Center
Conference Room 115, 2247 Lake Avenue
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Casey Kozlowski (Ashtabula County Commissioner)
Kathryn L. Whittington (Ashtabula County Commissioner)
J. P. Ducro, IV (Ashtabula County Commissioner)
Walter “Skip” Claypool (Geauga County Commissioner)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Portage County Commissioner)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Fish (OMJ-Ashtabula), Patrick Arcaro (ACDJFS-Director),
Mandy Berardinelli (OMJ-Portage), Craig Swenson (GCDJFS-
Director), Ron Smith (ACDJFS), Kellijo Jeffries (PCDJFS-Director),
Sue Brannon (PCDJFS), Angel Brandner (PCDJFS), Brian Boykin
(PCDJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19-Director), Michelle Laveck (Area
19), Denise Gehring (Area 19)

Mr. Kozlowski called the Annual meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

REPORT ON PAST YEAR OF OPERATIONS

- Regular WIOA Operations
 - *Overview of General Operations.* Mr. Sernik reported Program Year 2016 was the second year of WIA to WIOA transition. A new Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated with the state, a Regional Plan was developed and completed December 2016, the Area 19 Local Plan was completed and submitted to the state this past June, negotiated new adult and dislocated worker agreements, and completed negotiations for the SFY2018 MOU with the partners. Area 19 competitively procured for the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) youth services in October 2016 with program services beginning January 2017. The programs are experiencing tremendous growth especially in Ashtabula County at approximately 457 youth participating in the program. We’ve asked the state for additional TANF dollars and they responded that they’re considering the request. Discussion commenced regarding the criteria for youth. Discussion concluded.

- *Presentation on County and Area Performance Reports.* Mr. Sernik reported because of the transition from WIA to WIOA there have been changes in the performance measures. This is currently a data collection/gathering year until June 30, 2018. The Measurable Skills Gains is a new rate of which the county staff is still in process of training on and data has not been captured. Question was asked what a measurable skill is. Mr. Sernik responded if a youth is still in school and has completed a grade level, GED gained, or is in Vo-ED and completes a term/semester. Question was asked if it is the same for adult as for youth. Answer to the question - if an individual completes a training program and graduates with a credential that is a measurable skills gain. Question was asked do we participate in establishing the metrics. Mr. Sernik responded the overall measures were established by the government through the statutes and the Department of Labor. The state then negotiates with the feds and then the local areas negotiate with the state. Mr. Sernik stated in the future he will send the performance reports to all nine commissioners. Question was asked is there a local metric that can be applied to improve outcomes. Mr. Sernik responded that he will reach out to the other areas that do their own score cards to provide a copy.
- **Fiscal Reports**
 - *Year in review of expenditures.* Ms. Laveck explained the year to date financial spreadsheet to all present. Mr. Sernik stated the area is not sending any money back to state from workforce. Question was asked if some money is remaining. Ms. Laveck responded this will rollover to the second year of the grant and still will receive funding.
 - *Available grant income.* Ms. Laveck explained the report shows funding that is currently available for this year. This also has the rollover in it. Question was asked if Ms. Laveck is comfortable with the spending level that each county is at. Ms. Laveck responded in the affirmative.
- **Business Resource Network Operations**
 - *Future of BRN program, BRN 2.0.* Mr. Sernik reported the RFP was released and contracts awarded and draft contracts completed currently working on the measurables. The area will now need to measure employers on the following: 1) businesses that are provided services, do they come back within three years seeking another service; and 2) the retention of individuals that are placed. Follow up will be done with the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners regarding whether to pursue a sub award or to go back out for bid for County Account Executive for Geauga County.

REPORT ON PRESENT AND FUTURE OF AREA 19 WDB

- **Presentation regarding current and future status of Area 19 as an Area.**
Mr. Sernik reported Area 19 was approached by Portage indicating that they may wish to go with Summit and Medina Counties. The state informed Area 19 that in any point in time if a current workforce area wishes to change an application could be submitted to the state. The state said in order for them to consider an application regarding changing any of the workforce areas as they're currently drawn up, three things need to occur, 1) the counties in the affected area would need to approve the county leaving; 2) the county leaving would

need approval from counties it was seeking to join; 3) and the state would have to agree to the re-designation. Discussion commenced regarding Portage re-designation. Discussion concluded.

- Presentation regarding things that the Area has to do in the future.
 - *OMJ Center-Portage County.* Ms. Berardinelli reported the OMJ Center completed it job fair with 60 employers and approximately 150 attendees, currently planning a spring career/job fair for the youth, the Transportation Pilot program continues with up to 10 individuals in the program, attended the Success Bound Conference, and in process of gearing up for ITA's for the adult and dislocated worker population.
 - *OMJ Center-Ashtabula County.* Mr. Fish reported Wage Pathways has 40 students that are earning incentives, currently planning a career/job fair for youth in April to be held at Kent State-Ashtabula, CCMEP has 457 youth, and today is the first day for HEAP assistance.
 - *OMJ Center-Geauga County.* Ms. Reda reported planning a reverse job fair in conjunction with the Auburn Career Center, planning a high school job fair on April 24, doing the Summer Manufacturing Institute again, working with the sheriff's office to create an OhioMeansJobs Center at the jail, did an STNA training using PRC monies and looking to do again in May, and created a CDL Class A customized training.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE THREE COUNTY BOARDS

None.

PROVISION OF SUGGESTIONS/INPUT FOR THE FUTURE OPERATIONS OF THE AREA 19 WDB FROM THE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS.

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

Mr. Claypool moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ducro seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Meeting concluded at 3:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring