

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

November 16, 2022

11:00-AM

Geauga County Offices, Meeting Room Suite A334
12611 Ravenwood Drive,
Chardon, Ohio 44024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Dvorak
Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Casey Kozlowski

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Kathy Nakoski (ODJFS),
Andrea McGee (GCJFS), Alyssa Parnaby (GCJFS),
Hattie Grubke-Barnard (OMJ-Ashtabula), Angel Brandner
(PCJFS), Brian Boykin (PCJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19
Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Dvorak called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the meeting Minutes from September 28, 2022, as presented. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported the OWA recently asked the State to reconsider their current band on providing Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) to public employers. There is some discrepancy as to whether public employers are allowed or not allowed to receive IWT assistance. The State’s most recent IWT policy possibly reads to mean managerial trainings have to result in a promotion or raise before beginning the training. Asked the State if this was just for Lean and Six Sigma and they responded no, the intention was to do this for all managerial trainings. The OWA is now petitioning for this to be altered and changed.

Fiscal Report

Review of Returned Funds to ODJFS at Close of Fiscal Year.

Mr. Sernik reported for FY21 the area returned \$201,082.70 in adult, \$135,474.16 in dislocated worker, and \$600.73 in youth. A total of \$336,556.86 was returned to the State, but considering the area picked up that much in special grants and because of this would not have returned such a large amount.

Review of Current Over/Under Report.

Mr. Sernik reported the area has moved into the new program year with two full years' worth of funding. We are rapidly spending the youth money and project for this year a need of an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000. The State is agreeable to giving the area a sizable additional amount of special grant dollars that will not have its own expenditure codes and will need to be booked into an open formula grant and then move the expenditures. The State will allow the area to book up to 50% of in-school youth and to not having to close the PY21 youth money first.

Special Grant Status.

The area has until 2024 to spend down the Fresh Start Grant. Notified the State they could take back the Covid-19 Grant but they have not done so as of yet. The BRN Grant allocation was \$400,000 of which the area distributed to each county holding back \$52,000 in reserve. This money closes and liquidates June 30, 2023. Portage has an estimated need of \$17,000 going forward. The remaining \$35,000 in reserve will be discussed at the next NOC COG Board meeting.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to divide up the remaining \$52,000.00 of BRN Grant unobligated funds by distributing budget to Portage County in the amount of \$17,000.00. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Reda reported they have had approximately 70 workers go through the IWT program, will be discussing the planning of a job fair with the U.S. Census who is looking for census workers, working with Geauga Growth Partnership to assist with a career exploration open house on January 12, 2023 at Kent State Geauga with an expected 25 businesses and up to 100 students.

OMJ Portage County. Mr. Boykin reported the fourth cohort of the Manufacturing Internship program will be held in February 2023 with a target module of ten to twelve individuals. A job fair was held on November 10th with 35 employers and 50 individuals who attended, developing a more structured OMJ training module for staff and new staff, and the procurement for the leadership component was completed and a provider selected. Mr. Sernik asked if Mr. Boykin could share the modules with the other Area 19 OMJ Centers to see if they would like to replicate.

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported they received 50 new CCMEP eligibility applications in August, 50 in September, 51 in October, and 26 so far in November. Currently have 23 active adults with ITAs spending close to \$200,000. Planning an all-county job fair in the spring, had approximately 455 individuals visit the OMJ in October, processed 16 job orders, 103 ABAWD appointments in October, CCMEP mandates had 102 youth, RESEA scheduled 5 appointments in October, and a total of 652 active youth of which 205 are in follow up and 100 youth are WIOA.

Old Business

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the WIOA CCMEP Agreement with A-Tech (Ashtabula County) for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, to an increase not to exceed \$28,000.00 in WIOA funding. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to provide budget and have the NOC COG enter into a written Agreement with PCJFS, PCBOC, and Leadership Portage County for a term from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023, for the provision of Leadership and Entrepreneurship CCMEP program services, for a total budget not to exceed \$20,000.00, with half of the budget provided by WIOA and half TANF CCMEP funds. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Update of status of certification of Area 19 OhioMeansJobs Centers:

Mr. Sernik reported the last piece of the OMJ Certification is the completion of the ADA Survey/Checklist for the new GCJFS/OMJ Center Building. Hoping this will be completed before the Thanksgiving Holiday to then present to the WDB on December 7th for approval.

New Business

WDB Member Resignation:

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to accept the resignation of David Hyre, Smithers Oasis North America, represented BUSINESS for Portage County, from the Area 19 Workforce Development Board. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

WDB Membership Re-appointments:

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the re-appointment of Joel Domino, Kent Displays, representing Business for Portage County, to the Area 19 Workforce Board. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Policy Update. Mr. Sernik explained there is a need to condense Area 19's three separate supportive service policies into one Supportive Services policy. There will not be a complete alignment but trying to make it streamlined as possible also making it more generous. The Area's Incumbent Worker Training policy changes will be completed now and amended when the State announces the changes to their policy to cover public employers and managerial types of training. We have come to the decision to make two items clear within our IWT policy that we will not do. Those are: 1) no recertification; and 2) no paying for retreat style education.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn the Meeting

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to adjourn. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:06 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.

