

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

January 25, 2023
2:30-PM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Dvorak
Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett
Commissioner Casey Kozlowski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Patrick Arcaro (ACJFS-Director), Andrea McGee (GCJFS), Alyssa Parnaby (GCJFS), Hattie Grubke-Barnard (OMJ-Ashtabula), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Sue Brannon (PCJFS), Mandy Minnick (OMJ-Portage), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Dvorak called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Kozlowski moved to approve the meeting Minutes from December 14, 2022, as presented. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported the State is pleased with Area 19’s RESEA virtual services and impressed with OMJ-Geauga’s mini video workshops which they created during the pandemic. An ARIES session was held with OMJ managers and their staff to discuss ARIES issues. The list of issues noted during the session will be forwarded to the State. Worked with the youth vendors regarding the amount of youth funds to request from State and have decided to request a total of \$394,000.00 additional youth funds with an estimated \$320,000.00 to Ashtabula, \$57,000.00 to Portage, and \$17,000.00 to Geauga.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the Area 19 Executive Director to submit an application to the State requesting \$394,000.00 additional youth funding. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Mr. Sernik report the certification of the OMJ Centers was accepted by the state of Ohio. The ADA survey of the new Geauga County building was submitted and accepted by the state of Ohio conditioned that three items will be corrected by mid-April. The Area 19 Workforce Development Board will need to be recertified.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reported the area is on track with spending the BRN grant and the Fresh Start grant. The area may need to request additional Fresh Start funds from the State.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Geauga County.

Ms. Reda reported the OMJ Geauga Center partnered with Geauga Growth Partnership to hold a job fair at KSU-Gauga with businesses to discuss career opportunities with students and their parents. This morning OMJ staff went to Harvey High School in Lake County to assist with mock interviewing. The reverse job fair at Auburn Career Center has been set for April 20th. And will have a career fair held at Cardinal High School which will be open to the adult market. So far, the OMJ-Gauga has assisted 148 employees with the Incumbent Worker Training program. And the Middlefield Economic Development and Geauga Growth Partnership have assisted with the push out of the IWT advertising.

OMJ Portage County.

Ms. Minnick reported the Manufacturing intern program will begin February 6th and still needs 10 individuals to enroll. Finalizing goals for OMJ staff, down three staff on the CCMEP team and will be advertising positions this week, 18 ITAs, receiving a lot of people from summit and other counties, 331 serves offered in December to 120 universal customers, 327 employer services, UI is down from October, CCMEP currently has 114 participants, Windham Schools reached out and asked the OMJ Center to do in class sessions beginning in February each week and classes for Leadership will begin in February.

OMJ Ashtabula County.

Ms. Grubke-Barnard reported a reverse job fair will be held at Atech on April 13th, the RESEA program is up slightly in seasonal unemployment, 27 ITAs, met with Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County to discuss how to refer youth and note taking and he CCMEP program is up to 647 youth with 184 in follow up. The Youth Opportunity Newsletter highlights Brianna Bradley who was a yO! youth is now a personal growth advisor, January 31st and the yO! program will be celebrating their training clubs.

Old Business

CCMEP Youth Contract with Family & Community Services, Inc. We have been paying \$10.00 an hour for the work experience and minimum wage is now at \$10.10 in the state of Ohio. Need to change to allow for a wage scale between minimum wage and \$13.00 an hour with actual wages set on a case by case basis by the PCJFS CCMEP case managers with no work experience exceeding 40 hours a week. Also discovered there is a 2,000 hour lifetime cap on work experience for CCMEP youth which will be added into the agreement as well.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to amend the WIOA CCMEP Youth Agreement with Family & Community Services, Inc. for the period from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, by changing the language to allow wages for work experience to be set between the required federal/state minimum wage and \$13.00 per hour, with actual wages to be set upon an agreed upon formula established by PCJFS, with exceptions allowed on a case-by-case basis by the CCMEP case managers, with no work experience to exceed 40 hours a week. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Update status of BRN Grant.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to transfer the remaining \$35,000.00 of BRN Grant unobligated budget funds to Portage County. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

GCJFS CCMEP Youth Contract, awarding an additional \$19,230.00 in WIOA funding.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the WIOA CCMEP Youth Agreement with GCJFS for the period from April 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, an increase of \$19,230.00 in WIOA funding, with their contract not to exceed \$35,000.00 in compensation. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

CCMEP OhioGuidestone Youth Contract.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to amend the CCMEP OhioGuidestone for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, so that total compensation and Article Budgets are as follows:

TOTAL COMPENSATION		
CCMEP TANF	\$320,000.00	
Simply Summer	\$19,494.00	
Regular TANF	\$58,838.61	
CCMEP WIOA	<u>\$280,000.00</u>	
Total	\$678,332.61	
ARTICLE BUDGETS		
Article 1	\$224,193.35	
WIOA		\$ 97,210.24
TANF		\$126,983.11
Article 2	\$301,325.41	
WIOA		\$116,529.67
TANF		\$106,463.13
Simply Summer		\$ 19,494.00
Regular TANF		\$ 58,838.61
Articles 3, 4, and 5	\$152,813.85	
WIOA		\$66,260.09
TANF		\$86,553.76

Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

New Business

Discussion of OUIO Grant Opportunity. This is a special grant part of the state's Tiger Team in which they wish to buy equipment and install a kiosk at the OMJ Centers. Portage and Ashtabula Counties would be eligible. This is optional participation. The proposal is they would become partners at the OMJ Center and would not be staffing. The furniture and equipment will be a portal

for individuals to come into OMJ Center to engage directly with a customer service representative from UI virtually and there is a translation service. Individuals would be set by a priority such as English as a Second language, disabled or elderly, or no internet, and everyone else would be first come first serve.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Area and OMJ Center Managers to Enter into discussions in relation to hosting customer service technology at their centers. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

WDB Membership Resignation:

Mr. Kozlowski moved to accept the resignation of Andrew A. Juhola, Molded Fiber Glass Companies, represented Business for Ashtabula County, from the Area 19 Workforce Development Board. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to accept the resignation of Leslie Smetana, Geauga Mechanical, represented Business for Geauga County, from the Area 19 Workforce Development Board. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

WDB Membership Re-appointments:

Mr. Kozlowski moved to approve the Slate of Re-appointments to the Area 19 Workforce Board:

- **Kenny Lohr, SpringSeal, representing Business for Portage County.**
- **Jonathan Forbes, ACMC, representing Business for Ashtabula County.**

Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn the Meeting

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

Meeting Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.