

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

April 26, 2023
11:00-AM

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Sue
Bannon (PCJFS), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Brian Boykin
(PCJFS), Hattie Grubke-Barnard, Mandy Minnick (OMJ-
Portage), Patrick Arcaro (ACJFS Director), Craig Sernik (Area
19 Director)

Ms. Christian-Bennett called the in-person meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes

Mr. Kozlowski moved to approve the meeting Minutes from March 22, 2023, as presented. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported the documentation to re-certify the Area 19 Workforce Board was submitted to the State a week ago and awaiting a response. Received a lot of contact in Ashtabula from high schools regarding a group of students who are not set to graduate this year. The students have their 20 credits, OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal, but are not expected to be able to pass the test. The only way for these students to graduate would be to receive 12 points on an industry recognized credential. We are working with the BAC to figure something out for next year and what to do for the summer.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the over-under report with those present.
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the fiscal report as present. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

One Stop and Youth Reports

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Reda reported the Auburn Career Center did a reverse job fair on April 20th with approximately 150 to 250 attendees. The OMJ Center presented the Incumbent Worker Training Program and Tech Cred at the Leadership Geauga Day last week. The OMJ Center assisted the Veterans Services who put on an event last week with 70 veterans who attended. The OMJ will hold a job fair at Cardinal High School next Friday and is not open to the general public. The summer CCMEP Program and the Summer Manufacturing Camp will both begin in June.

OMJ Portage County. Ms. Minnick reported 7 participants graduated from the sixth cohort of the Manufacturing Program. The Re-entry Resource Fair will be held at the OMJ-Portage on May 18th from Noon until 4:00 p.m. The Benefit Bridge Program now has up to 20 participants with a goal of getting up to 50. The OMJ staff went out to the schools to do mock interviews with the freshmen. The Work Activity participated in discussions with the State regarding ways to connect the SNAP participants with WIOA services. And gearing up for the back to school voucher program.

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke-Barnard reported the OMJ Center had 638 individuals come through its doors, 11 job orders, collected 18 applications for the City of Ashtabula, April and May will have weekly high school career fairs, as of April 13th CCMEP had 612 youth with 134 in follow-up, and almost ready to begin summer youth employment. In March scheduled 146 SNAP E&T appointments, CCMEP had 141 appointments in March and down to 46 individuals who are OWF, scheduled 14 initial RESEA appointments in March and 19 subsequent, and approved two WIOA trainings for Great Lakes Driving Academy.

Old Business

Mr. Kozlowski moved to approve the renewal of the CORSA Property & Casualty for the May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 Program Year for the NOC COG. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion regarding Area 19 Subsequent Certification, and withdrawal of SPIRE candidate, Keith Webb from Board nomination process.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to withdraw Keith Webb, SPIRE candidate for WDB from consideration as he has respectively declined. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Mr. Sernik stated extra money picked up by Ashtabula does need distributed in their contracts
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the budget and contract with Ashtabula County Job & Family Services by increasing their current WIOA CCMEP budget \$20,000.00 from \$40,000.00, to \$60,000.00 for the period ending September 30, 2023. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the budget and contract with A-Tech by increasing their current WIOA CCMEP budget \$320,000.00 from \$270,000.00 to \$590,000.00 for the period ending September 30, 2023. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion of Status of ADA Survey Remediation Issues. Mr. Sernik reported an extension of early June has been granted in order to address the three unresolved issues.

Discussion regarding opportunity to amend Area 19 Local Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Policy A-07 and Policy C-05. The State has amended its policies for Incumbent Worker Training that would allow to open the training to public employers. But we are still waiting for clarification on relationships between the owners of the business who are applying or the trainees. We found that some of the training courses are prepped for an exam and if an individual took the exam, it would cause them to be certified. In the future, would like individuals to sit for the exam.

New Business

Discussion regarding QUEST 5G Broadband/Internet Training. Mr. Sernik reported this is a 15 month national emergency grant from the Department of Labor. ODJFS released an RFP for Grant Applications from public or private four-year colleges or universities and their implementation partners to carry out Ohio's broadband and 5G workforce strategy in their JobsOhio region. Our application was Kent State University, Tri-C, and Area 19. If we are approved for the grant, we will be involved in coordinating it for all 18 counties and if not approved our OMJ Centers will still be eligible to receive this money and send individuals for training in 5G broadband and internet occupations tuition free. Grant will be awarded in the news month or two.

Discussion regarding the BRN Grant application beginning June 1, 2023. Mr. Sernik stated another BRN grant will be available June 1, 2023, applications need to be submitted to ODJFS by May 5th.

Discussion of the OMJ Special Grant. Mr. Sernik explained this is a special grant to be spent by June 30th to be used on improvements in the OMJ Centers that are non-technology based.

Executive Session:

Mr. Kozlowski moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion.

Executive Session commenced at 12:27 a.m.

Ms. Christian Bennett moved to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

The Executive Session concluded at 12:52 p.m.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to make a modification in the wages of 5 percent for Denise and 3 percent for Craig and that would be on the wages currently in the system effective within the next pay period. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

The Board asked that a current vacation policy be emailed to them and for Craig to do a survey of two or three counties of similar size to Area 19 and the board will then address the vacation policy at next month's meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn the Meeting

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

Meeting Adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.