

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

August 23, 2023

11:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Dvorak
 Commissioner Casey Kozlowski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Mandy Minnick (OMJ-Portage),
 Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Vanessa L. Beard (PCJFS),
 Sue Brannon (PCJFS), Hattie Grubke-Barnard (OMJ-
 Ashtabula), Alyssa Steinhoff (GCJFS), Brian Guarniere
 (GCJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring
 (Area 19)

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Minutes

**Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the meeting Minutes from July 26, 2023, as presented.
Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported ODJFS has until September 1st to reopen the ARIES system to allow information back to a year old to be entered into the system. YSU has free schooling for anyone within Area 19 who has an interest in learning broadband instillation or anything related to broadband. A-Tech has trainers linked to the broadband expansion and is able to do some of the broadband teaching within our workforce area. Still waiting for a response from ODJFS on how to handle our Incumbent Worker Training data going back a year. ODJFS during a recent training mentioned areas will be required to do midway training check ins through the training and asking areas to do an immediate check in with the employer once the training is completed, two quarters out, and four quarters out. ODJFS is doing an OMJ rebranding which has no name change but will probably change the font and the color scheme. The State UI staff has been gutted and fraud is up, a rapid response was done for Yellow Freight and a WARN notice for Deluxe in Portage County was received. The CCMEP Youth contracts will need to be negotiated with the CDJFS’ and providers. Mr. Sernik would like to put in for a special grant to do career services at the same time the area puts in for additional WIOA CCMEP Youth money.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the over/under report with all those present. Ashtabula will spend all of their PY 21 youth monies, Geauga may spend short of the \$52,000 remaining, and Portage may possibly spend short just like Geauga on youth. Ashtabula has \$25,000 remaining in adult and \$130,000.00 in dislocated worker remaining, Geauga has \$86,000 remaining in adult and \$45,000 in dislocated worker remaining, Portage will need adult money, and approximately \$50,000 in admin dollars will possibly be returned.

One Stop and Youth Reports

OMJ-Gauga County. Ms. Reda reported the event with the Common Pleas Court and the Drug Court is tomorrow, Auburn Career Center approached OMJ-Lake and OMJ-Gauga Centers regarding assisting with funding a position at Auburn Career Center. This position will be assisting students both adult and high school age with employment needs and linking them with businesses. OMJ-Gauga will be funding 20 percent of the position and OMJ-Lake and Auburn Career Center are funding the other 80 percent. This concept is connecting employers with what they need and what Auburn can provide in training by engaging more with employers and their IWT. This will be presented at the OWA presentation next month. The current branding will need to shift to the state refresh of branding. Working on solving TTY in the Geauga County building by looking at software to add to the computers.

OMJ-Portage County. Ms. Minnick reported updating the Benefit Bridge plan, September 20th is the Educational Workforce Breakfast held at UH, will be hosting a transportation forum in the fall to discuss how to get funding for transportation, manufacturing program cohort in the spring had 10 graduates and 10 individuals are enrolled for the class that begins on December 11th, received a call back in by the judge to see if the OMJ Center could re-engage to work with the county jail and Paris Linen which will probably begin this fall, and the Work Activity Unit received 800 applications for back to school vouchers.

OMJ-Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke-Barnard reported the OMJ Center continues to TABE test individuals who want to go to school or work, unemployment for June is up a whole percent over May, SNAP E&T appointments continue with rules changing first of September, approved one training for July and 12 for August, training was held for the newly purchased virtual reality headsets, and CCMEP program had 596 youth served with 98 youth in follow up plus 74 youth in summer TANF that were working.

Old Business

Discussion regarding executing Sub-Grant Agreement and CCMEP Opt-In Attachment. ODJFS sent an RESEA memo to workforce areas explaining that if an area would like to opt out of RESEA they will need to spend all of their money first. ODJFS made an exception for Area 19 and will send the exception in a memo to Mr. Sernik.

Performance Measure Presentation and Discussion. The PY 21 Performance Measures are not officially in the book until they apply the federal statistical regression model. Area 19 is currently failing five measures those are: Measurable Skills Gain in adult, dislocated worker, and youth which is the feature that is broken in ARIES; Median Earning second quarter after exit in dislocated worker; and Credential Attainment in dislocated worker.

Ashtabula OMJ Operator Agreement/Budget for Program Year 2023/2024. Mr. Sernik stated the budget for the OMJ Operator Agreement for Ashtabula needs to be \$11,350.00 not \$8,418.80.

Mr. Dvorak moved to amend the OMJ Operator Agreement with the Ashtabula County Job & Family Services (ACJFS) for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, to an increase not to exceed \$11,350.00. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

New Business

Review of proposed changes to policies. Mr. Sernik stated a bullet point sheet listing the policy changes will be presented at next month's NOC COG Board and WDB meetings.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn the Meeting

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

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.