

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

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

11:00 a.m.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), Alissa Drees (ACJFS),
Patrick Arcaro (ACJFS Director), Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Sue
Brannon (PCJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes

Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the meeting Minutes from November 15, 2023. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the performance measures for first quarter PY23 with all those present. YSU and Area 3 held its first QUEST 1 Broadband Expansion meeting with the workforce areas explaining that any individuals wanting broadband training should be eligible, but Area 3 said if you find people that are adult, dislocated worker, or youth under WIOA, they would us to use our WIOA funding to pay for the training. Their goal is to have by the end of June 100 individuals go through the training. The QUEST 2 grant is in process and will be for electric vehicles. The area continues to have issues with UI. The rebranding is going through with each OMJ Center receiving \$4,000 which will not be enough, but the State is allowing the use of WIOA adult and dislocated worker funding. The State will be providing the high definition logos which have been completed for Ashtabula and Portage, but Geauga may need to wait another month. No word has been heard from the State regarding the Portage buildout due to the State still waiting for a response from DOL. The State is still looking into special grants to potentially get an RMS expenditure code. The CCMEP evaluation study the State arranged is continuing, RESEA services winter workload began a week ago with numbers in Ashtabula and Portage Counties increasing. The state revised their workforce state plan and is out for public comment. Reauthorization of WIOA has been

reintroduced and has bipartisan support. Mr. Sernik said a request will be put in for additional youth monies which will be either state special grant monies or have another opportunity in February when the redistribution is done which are actual WIOA monies from another area.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the under/over report handout with all those present. The state this week took back \$30,000 in Opioid Fresh Start funding temporarily because they are shuffling money around to those areas who are in need while they try to get the final third of this grant from DOL who are moving very slowly on this. Mr. Sernik stated he would like to submit the application for additional monies to the state this month.

Reports of County OMJ-Centers

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported in the month of November of the 106 that came into the Resource Room 72 were unemployment related, doing mock interviews begin this month through March, will be taking the VR headset to Reality Days in conjunction with ACCESS, RESEA numbers are at eight this week, first dislocated worker applied for funds, 628 youth in the yO! Program with 119 in follow-up, Christmas Bridges event will be on December 18th, HEAP had 307 individuals serviced in November, served 172 vets this year, unemployment is at 3.8 percent, labor force decreased from September to October, approved one CDL driver in December, 25 trainings from July 1st to now, and planning in February an Ashtabula County job fair.

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Reda reported they published an RFP for contract for the career center staff and awarded to Auburn Career Center, rebranding needs the vectored logo, a Career Awareness will be held in March along with KSU-Gauga and Gauga Growth Partnership targeting high school students as well as recent high school graduates with a focus on the 4 E's, OMJ Center in February is sponsoring the Leadership Gauga's Government Day, and a Job/Career Fair will be in May at Cardinal High School for 11th and 12th graders for job fair piece but also do career awareness for the 9th and 10th graders and will not be open to general public. Gauga unemployment for October is at 2.5 percent.

OMJ Portage County. Unemployment in Portage is at 3.4 percent. Mr. Sernik reported conversations with Leadership Portage for the youth program continue. The OMJ Center is in the process of restarting the Paris program. Held a Transportation Job Fair for drivers in which 16 individuals applied.

Old Business

Review of IWT Forms. Mr. Sernik reviewed the application and checklist forms with all those present. He explained the application is 9 pages max with page 8 for OJTs and page 7 is for those who are governmental employers and nonprofit/religious organizations. With the addition of the governmental employers the attestation of relationship form was also revised.

New Business

Discussion of draft application for additional CCMEP Youth funds.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Area 19 Director to apply to the State for additional CCMEP funds once the final numbers have been turned in by each respective county.

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

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn the Meeting

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

Meeting Adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.