

**AREA 19 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 6, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Geauga County Offices, Meeting Room B167-B168  
12611 Ravenwood Drive  
Chardon, Ohio 44024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brad Ehrhart, Jonathan Forbes, Mark Goffinet, Phil Rath, Nicole Deligianis, Eric Davis, Scott Wludyga, Kelley Hollander, Teresa Simons, Judith Barris, Michelle Bertman, Angela Spalsbury, Joel Domino, David Flautt, Keith Wyatt, Mark Frisone, Anthony Lignetta, Dawn Farrell, Lynn Hartman, Monica Bricker-Thompson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike DeLuke, Gina Hofstetter, Gregory J. King, Christian Klein, Kenny Lohr, Greg Myers, David Shea, Mark Trushell, Eladio Yenderrozos.

**Others in Attendance:** Vanessa Beard (PCJFS), Brian Boykin (PCJFS), Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Frank Liszka (OMJ-Geauga), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), Mandy Minnick (OMJ-Portage), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Sherry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Past Business

*Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2023.*

**Mr. Frisone moved to approve the Minutes from December 6, 2023 as presented. Mr. Ehrhart seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

*Approval of Motions of the NOC COG since last meeting.*

Motions approved by the NOC COG on February 28, 2024

Motion to distribute the \$80,000.00 of Fresh Start Third Allocation in the following ways:

1. Distribute the \$8,000.00 of Administrative Funds to Area 19 NOC COG.
2. Distribute \$20,220.00 to Ashtabula.
3. Distribute \$51,780.00 to Portage.
4. Transfer \$20,000.00 of Fresh Start Allocation 1 from Ashtabula to Portage.
5. Transfer \$220.00 of Fresh Start Allocation 2 from Ashtabula to Portage.

Motion to distribute \$53,369.00 of additional FY24 Dislocated Worker funds in the following manner:

1. Distribute \$5,366.00 to Area 19 Administrative Offices.
2. Distribute \$15,454.00 to ACJFS.
3. Distribute \$11,928.00 to GCJFS.
4. Distribute \$20,911.00 to PCJFS.

Motion to distribute \$113,677.00 of Supplemental PY23 RESEA funds and \$42,033.48 of PY23 RESEA funds:

1. Distribute \$11,367.00 to Area 19 Administrative Offices.
2. Distribute \$51,000.00 to ACJFS.
3. Distribute \$15,343.48 to GCJFS.
4. Distribute \$78,000.00 to PCJFS.

Motion to approve an Application for Additional WIOA CCCMEP Funds in the amount of \$540,000.00 and WIOA Dislocated Worker Funds in the amount of \$290,000.00.

Motion to accept the resignation of Judith Barris, Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, representing Community Organization for Ashtabula County, from the Area 19 Workforce Development Board.

**Mr. Forbes moved to accept the motions of the NOC COG report from February 28, 2024. Mr. Frisone seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

#### Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported WIOA Performance Measures performance statewide was excused the last 2 years due to issues with ARIES, but that will not be for this year performance will count. The findings from the CCMEP program evaluation study conducted by the state and OSU will possibly be received sometime in June. Mr. Sernik stated the GRIT program goes until June 2025, is expressly earmarked for counties in Appalachia but has now been opened to areas that have the same geographic similarities. Mr. Sernik reported ODFJS will be doing an RESEA evaluation study in which they are adding a mentored structured workshop and Area 19 is in this pilot and once completed will be rolled out statewide.

#### Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the Fiscal Report handout with all those present. Additional money is needed for Ashtabula's youth program which is at 686 youth. The area is asking for \$540,000 additional youth monies that would be \$350,000 to Ashtabula, \$78,000 to Geauga, and \$112,000 to Portage. Total statewide there was a request for \$2.3 million with just under a million available. The adult and dislocated worker amount requested statewide was \$4.5 to \$5 million with only \$300,000 available. The state of Ohio lost WIOA federal dollars for the past three years in a row but based upon early estimates from DOL the state will lose 3 percent of dislocated worker dollars but may pick up 10 percent in youth and 10 percent in adult dollars statewide.

**Mr. Ehrhart moved to authorize the Executive Director to apply for and secure the following additional funds and to amend agreements with providers accordingly based upon what is received.**

**a. Additional CCMEP Funds, \$540,000.00**

- i. Ashtabula \$350,000.00 64.8%**
- ii. Geauga \$78,000.00 14.5%**
- iii. Portage \$112,000.00 20.7%**

**b. Additional Adult and/or Dislocated Worker Funds \$290,000.00 for Portage County.**

**Mr. Davis seconded the motion with Mr. Wludyga abstaining due to conflict of interest.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Judith Barris – yes</b>	<b>Michelle Bertman – yes</b>	<b>Eric Davis – yes</b>
<b>Nicole Deligianis – yes</b>	<b>Joel Domino – yes</b>	<b>Brad Ehart – yes</b>
<b>Dawn Farrell – yes</b>	<b>Jonathan Forbes – yes</b>	<b>Lynn Hartman – yes</b>
<b>Kelly Hollander – yes</b>	<b>Anthony Lignetta – yes</b>	<b>Mark Goffinet – yes</b>
<b>Phil Rath – yes</b>	<b>Ned Sherry – yes</b>	<b>Teresa Simons – yes</b>
<b>Dr. Angela Spalsbury – yes</b>	<b>Scott Wludyga – yes</b>	<b>Keith Wyatt – yes</b>

Reports of County OMJ Centers

*OMJ Ashtabula County.* Ms. Grubke reported the OMJ Center did a Rapid Response for Mohawk. Most of their employees were on SharedWork Ohio and knew how to apply for unemployment. Planning an Ashtabula County employer Job Fair at the Commissioners’ Office to be held on May 8<sup>th</sup>, mock interviews continue at the schools, will present virtual reality headsets to the middle school principals during their meeting, planning for the Summer Manufacturing Camp to be held three weeks in July. Ashtabula school job fairs for Jefferson will be April 11<sup>th</sup>, Geneva April 15<sup>th</sup>, Grand Valley April 18<sup>th</sup>, Pymatuning April 25<sup>th</sup>, Lakeside May 1<sup>st</sup>, Conneaut May 7<sup>th</sup>, and Edgewood May 15<sup>th</sup>. These job fairs will be just for the students and will not be open to the general public.

*OMJ Portage County.* Ms. Minnick reported currently working on developing a youth council by partnering with a couple of other agencies within the community to use this council to help better serve youth in the community. CCMEP currently has 150 youth enrolled, getting ready to kick-off a pilot program for leadership service with Leadership Portage County in April, and at the end of last quarter held the first holiday workshop with the youth. Have been using virtual reality headsets with the students for career exploration but would like to begin using the training component before the end of this year for both students and adults. The WIOA team had \$200,000 ITA spent since last June. The educational career pathway individuals are choosing is truck driving and nursing. The second annual Re-entry Fair will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the OMJ-Portage Center. Business Services completed almost 600 business services last month.

*OMJ Geauga County.* Ms. Reda reported a reverse job fair will be held in March at Auburn Career Center, currently planning the Summer Manufacturing Camp, GEL is holding an event for employers within the county will be held at KSU-Geauga with Geauga Growth Partnership is the lead and from September to May there will be different topics and in April they will bring in Liz Crosby who is an employment labor attorney who will give legal updates to employers. Last night KSU-Geauga and Geauga Growth Partnership did a career expo open house at KSU-Geauga with 25 businesses present to speak to students and their parents about potential career opportunities.

The Re-entry program was held in February with Family Pride, Re-entry team, and Citizen Circle held on Chardon Square. An all-county high school job fair will be held at Cardinal High School on May 9<sup>th</sup> and will not be open to the general public. Jodie Clute, Career Center instructor, is now at the Cardinal school and Chardon School systems doing mock interview training. A First Amendment Audit training was provided to let staff and partners know what to expect if an individual should come in with a camera to do a First Amendment audit. A new position at Auburn Career Center was created to work mostly with adult students and some teenagers as a navigator between the schools and businesses and with assisting to prep the students for employment opportunities. CCMEP had seven successful exits and preparing for the summer youth employment program.

#### Discretionary Reports of Economic Developers on the WDB

*Portage County.* Mr. Ehrhart reported last year the Portage Development Board had 15 successful projects, total investment of \$224.6 million which will keep 201 workers employed and create another 174 jobs for a total payroll of \$21.6 million. The Vega project in Shalersville is now under construction with manufacturing operation up and running in the spring of 2025. Another big project Restaurant Depot will be building a cold storage in Streetsboro. Summit Machine in Mogadore was able to utilize the low interest financing program to buy the building they are in. A larger building was located in the Aurora Industrial Park for Advance Innovative Manufacturing, but the building needed a lot of work and through JobsOhio and TeamNEO they were able to use the Revitalization Grant to assist Advance Innovative Manufacturing move in which will add another 24 jobs to the 50 they already have. The Business Resource Network team last year did 191 visits and 117 workforce related referrals. And conducted 38 calls in January and February with 27 workforce referrals. On March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. will hold the PDB Workforce Workshop at the Kent State Hotel. The next event will be the Locate, Stay, Grow to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Currently have five successful projects for this year of which two are Inclusion Grants and two major expansions. Diamond America will be moving to Suffield Township which will be bringing 25 jobs over from Summit to Portage.

*Geauga County.* Ms. Bricker-Thompson reported GGP for this year did 16 visits to local companies, 7 projects with TeamNEO and JobsOhio that are active, and March 20<sup>th</sup> is GGP's annual business meeting from 7:30 a.m. in Chesterland at the Generation Event and Reception Center. Preparing for the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the summer internship program for high school students which is an eight week paid experience for high school students. Applications are open right now for companies to host an intern and students who would like to intern. Doing tours for high school students to local companies.

Old Business

*Fresh Start Grant Redistribution of Funds. Grant's new extended close date March 31, 2025.*

**Mr. Erhart moved to distribute/redistribute Fresh Start Third Allocation in the following ways and to amend contracts as needed:**

- 1. Distribute the \$8,000.00 of Administrative Funds to Area 19 NOC COG.**
- 2. Distribute \$20,220.00 to Ashtabula.**
- 3. Distribute \$51,780.00 to Portage.**
- 4. Transfer \$20,000.00 of Fresh Start Allocation 1 from Ashtabula to Portage.**

**Transfer \$220.00 of Fresh Start Allocation 2 from Ashtabula to Portage.**

**Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Judith Barris – yes</b>	<b>Michelle Bertman – yes</b>	<b>Monica Bricker-Thompson yes</b>
<b>Eric Davis – yes</b>	<b>Nicole Deligianis – yes</b>	<b>Joel Domino – yes</b>
<b>Brad Ehart – yes</b>	<b>Dawn Farrell – yes</b>	<b>Jonathan Forbes – yes</b>
<b>Lynn Hartman – yes</b>	<b>Kelly Hollander – yes</b>	<b>Anthony Lignetta – yes</b>
<b>Mark Goffinet – yes</b>	<b>Phil Rath – yes</b>	<b>Ned Sherry – yes</b>
<b>Teresa Simons – yes</b>	<b>Dr. Angela Spalsbury – yes</b>	<b>Scott Wludyga – yes</b>
<b>Keith Wyatt – yes</b>		

*Distribution of WIOA Rapid Response Funds.*

**Mr. Erhart moved to distribute \$53,659.00 of additional FY24 Dislocated Worker funds in the following manner and to amend contracts accordingly:**

- 1. Distribute \$5,366.00 to Area 19 Administrative Offices.**
- 2. Distribute \$15,454.00 to ACJFS.**
- 3. Distribute \$11,928.00 to GCJFS.**
- 4. Distribute \$20,911.00 to PCJFS.**

**Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Judith Barris – yes</b>	<b>Michelle Bertman – yes</b>	<b>Monica Bricker-Thompson yes</b>
<b>Eric Davis – yes</b>	<b>Nicole Deligianis – yes</b>	<b>Joel Domino – yes</b>
<b>Brad Ehart – yes</b>	<b>Dawn Farrell – yes</b>	<b>Jonathan Forbes – yes</b>
<b>Lynn Hartman – yes</b>	<b>Kelly Hollander – yes</b>	<b>Anthony Lignetta – yes</b>
<b>Mark Goffinet – yes</b>	<b>Phil Rath – yes</b>	<b>Ned Sherry – yes</b>
<b>Teresa Simons – yes</b>	<b>Dr. Angela Spalsbury – yes</b>	<b>Scott Wludyga – yes</b>
<b>Keith Wyatt – yes</b>		

*Distribution of RESEA Funds.*

**Mr. Erhart moved to distribute \$113,677.00 of Supplemental PY23 RESEA funds and \$42,033.48 of PY23 RESEA funds:**

- 1. Distribute \$11,367.00 to Area 19 Administrative Offices.**
- 2. Distribute \$51,000.00 to ACJFS.**
- 3. Distribute \$15,343.48 to GCJFS.**
- 4. Distribute \$78,000.00 to PCJFS.**

**Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Judith Barris – yes</b>	<b>Michelle Bertman – yes</b>	<b>Monica Bricker-Thompson yes</b>
<b>Eric Davis – yes</b>	<b>Nicole Deligianis – yes</b>	<b>Joel Domino – yes</b>
<b>Brad Ehart – yes</b>	<b>Dawn Farrell – yes</b>	<b>Jonathan Forbes – yes</b>
<b>Lynn Hartman – yes</b>	<b>Kelly Hollander – yes</b>	<b>Anthony Lignetta – yes</b>
<b>Mark Goffinet – yes</b>	<b>Phil Rath – yes</b>	<b>Ned Sherry – yes</b>
<b>Teresa Simons – yes</b>	<b>Dr. Angela Spalsbury – yes</b>	<b>Scott Wludyga – yes</b>
<b>Keith Wyatt – yes</b>		

New Business

*Policy Changes.*

Discussion of Incumbent Worker Training Policy Change. Mr. Sernik explained the suggested revision to the policy outlined on the handout.

**Mr. Rath moved to amend the Incumbent Worker Training Policy, A-07, as presented.**

**Mr. Frisone seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Judith Barris – yes</b>	<b>Michelle Bertman – yes</b>	<b>Monica Bricker-Thompson yes</b>
<b>Eric Davis – yes</b>	<b>Nicole Deligianis – yes</b>	<b>Joel Domino – yes</b>
<b>Brad Ehart – yes</b>	<b>Dawn Farrell – yes</b>	<b>Jonathan Forbes – yes</b>
<b>Lynn Hartman – yes</b>	<b>Kelly Hollander – yes</b>	<b>Anthony Lignetta – yes</b>
<b>Mark Goffinet – yes</b>	<b>Phil Rath – yes</b>	<b>Ned Sherry – yes</b>
<b>Teresa Simons – yes</b>	<b>Dr. Angela Spalsbury – yes</b>	<b>Scott Wludyga – yes</b>
<b>Keith Wyatt – yes</b>		

Discussion of On-the-Job Training Policy Changes. Mr. Sernik explained the suggested change to the policy outline in the handout.

**Mr. Rath moved to amend the On-the-Job Training Policy; C-10 as presented. Mr. Frisone seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Judith Barris – yes</b>	<b>Michelle Bertman – yes</b>	<b>Monica Bricker-Thompson yes</b>
<b>Eric Davis – yes</b>	<b>Nicole Deligianis – yes</b>	<b>Joel Domino – yes</b>
<b>Brad Ehart – yes</b>	<b>Dawn Farrell – yes</b>	<b>Jonathan Forbes – yes</b>
<b>Lynn Hartman – yes</b>	<b>Kelly Hollander – yes</b>	<b>Anthony Lignetta – yes</b>
<b>Mark Goffinet – yes</b>	<b>Phil Rath – yes</b>	<b>Ned Sherry – yes</b>
<b>Teresa Simons – yes</b>	<b>Dr. Angela Spalsbury – yes</b>	<b>Scott Wludyga – yes</b>
<b>Keith Wyatt – yes</b>		

*Discussion of Supportive Services Changes Draft.* Mr. Sernik explained that originally was proposing to combine the adult, dislocated worker and special grant supportive services and youth supportive services policy into one policy. Would like to make the supportive services policy broader and cover that which it does not already cover. Will engage all OMJ staff in the review of the supportive services policy.

*Presentation Regarding New Employer UI Aggregate Data Tool.*

Mr. Sernik reported we are now receiving detailed UI reports from the State showing the new UI claims weekly by industry.

Mr. Wludyga announced a groundbreaking will be scheduled for A-Tech's new building. As part of the Career Tech Facility funding, part of the \$200 million in the State budget, A-Tech was awarded \$6 million to expand their public safety academy. The current public safety academy has juniors doing criminal justice and seniors doing firefighter/EMT. This will enable A-Tech to offer two 2-year programs for each one. Groundbreaking will be either in June or early July with the new building to be opened in the fall of 2025.

Mr. Goffinet mentioned with the Wagner/Peyser staff and the OMJ Centers, they are redoing the Meaningful Assistance Memo regarding what help they can give in the OMJ-Center for unemployment claimants.

Mr. Boykin announced Kent City Schools were awarded a \$2.3 million grant to create an advanced manufacturing innovation center in the high school.

#### Public Comment

None.

**Mr. Ehrhart moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hartman seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.