

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

Wednesday, May 22, 2024
11:00 a.m.

OMJ-Portage County, Meeting Room,
253 South Chestnut
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carly Spencer (OMJ-Portage), Brian Boykin (PCJFS), Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Alyssa Steinhoff (GCJFS), Misty Gotham (GCJFS), Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Brian Guarniere (GCJFS), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Executive Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes

Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the meeting Minutes from May 22, 2024. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported the additional State funding of \$303,000.00 was received, DOL signed off on the State’s request to pay for the construction build out of the OMJ-Portage County Center, and county fiscal went through State fiscal accrual and obligation training before the area could receive the additional State funding. The OWA held their annual Local Board Chairs Luncheon-Ohio Workforce Update 2024 event in which Area 19 WDB member Monica Bricker-Thompson attended with Mr. Sernik. Mr. Sernik gave a presentation to the TeamNEO NODE yesterday regarding how workforce connects to economic development. Currently in process of completing amendments to the contracts to include the additional State monies that were received. The final numbers for the upcoming program year have been received. Mr. Sernik would like the county budgets to reflect the possible ASWAA percentages in their budgets for the upcoming program year to be prepared if and when ASWAA does pass our Area will be prepared. ASWAA would allow spending as much as 60 percent of the training budget on Incumbent Worker Training and

to spend more on in-school youth. The RESEA program all three counties are running a pilot program for the State which is going well and if no objections the State will roll out statewide sometime in July. The evaluation will run for 18 months with a goal of 30,000 individuals through the evaluation study. Question was asked with OMJ Centers in every county does an individual have to be a resident of that respective county to utilize that county's services can they go to another OMJ in another county. Mr. Sernik responded anyone can use the universal services but for in-depth triggering services our policy is written that each OMJ Center has discretion.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the over/under report handout with all those present. The amount of \$50,000.00 in dislocated worker from Ashtabula was transferred to Portage. Told ODJFS we would be interested in receiving additional Fresh Start funds. Ashtabula and Portage have an agreement that if dislocated worker funds are not spent a CCMEP swap will be done. ODJFS will be submitting a request to DOL for another opioid grant. The BRN grant will be spent down by the counties and this grant will not be coming back July 1. RESEA supplemental allocation was received from ODJFS last Friday. PY24 RESEA allocation will show up sometime this summer.

Reports of County OMJ-Centers

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported held the Ashtabula County Employer Job Fair on May 8th with an attendance of 51 people, OMJ attended school district career fairs, and the logistics side of Mohawk had a layoff of 23 individuals with 8 individuals who are still looking for employment. CCMEP mandated has 82 and RESEA had 20 scheduled initials and 20 scheduled subsequent. Second Chance Citizen Circle had one of the WIOA individuals attend, Happy Hearts came to the OMJ Center to learn about the Resource Room and the jobs that are available, met with a company that is looking to open in Andover who wanted to learn more on what the state could offer in the way of workforce, Manufacturing Camp will begin soon, CCMEP youth program has 708 participants with 181 in follow-up with 500 active in the program, the ASPIRE program has 16 participants, and a new OMJ Center hire starts on Monday and will do adult and youth eligibility. Mr. Kozlowski announced the Ashtabula County Commissioners' Office has a WIOA Work Experience youth helping out and Plaspro Inc. is acquiring the Mohawk building.

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Reda reported they are running a TANF Summer Youth Employment Program beginning June until the end of July, staff continue experiencing issues with unemployment compensation clients, assisting to sponsor in July the Rockin Resources with the Common Pleas Support and Drug Court, and the Summer Manufacturing Camp will be in June. Job fair was beginning of May held at Cardinal High School with 425 students from six different schools who attended.

OMJ Portage County. Carly reported partnering with local FCFC to set up a Portage County youth council to bring about change for young adults to be part of the conversation on what is needed in the county hoping to have 10 to 15 youth ages 15 to 21 serve on the youth council. Work activity in March was at 34.78 percent for all family but for April now at 50 percent, Kevin Perry was hired to replace Carly but two open positions remain in CCMEP, spending all of the WIOA money and

on hiatus at the moment with orientations, and need to look at Fresh Start possibly pulling back on HopeTown. The Re-entry Job Fair was held this year with 25 vendors and 63 participants with a great response to the event. Received a grant through Goodwill to get bus passes for individuals who are not on the case load.

Old Business

NOC COG Multi-Functional Agreement.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the renewal of the NOC COG Multi-Functional Agreement. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Finalized amendments, adding funding, and amending contracts.

Mr. Sernik stated the CFDA, FAIN numbers, and grant award identification information will be added to each of the amended contracts. Amend the ACJFS agreement term of 10/01/2023 to provide an additional \$15,000.00 of WIOA CCMEP and/or special grant compensation to Article 1 and/or Article 2, expansion of Section 2 Article 2. to include outreach services and beginning April 1, 2024 the indefinite closure of enrollment of additional WIOA CCMEP only eligible youth to the program unless those youth are identified as having the barrier of being homeless. Amend the GCJFS agreement term of 10/01/2023 to provide additional \$15,000.00 of WIOA CCMEP and/or special grant compensation to Article 1 and/or Article 2, expansion of Section 2. Article 2. to include outreach services and beginning May 2, 2024 the indefinite closure of enrollment of additional WIOA CCMEP only eligible youth to the program unless those youth are identified as having the barrier of being homeless. Amend the A-Tech Agreement term of 10/01/2023 to provide an additional \$218,450.00 of WIOA CCMEP and/or special grant compensation broken out in the following way: Article 1 \$48,000.00; Article 2 \$10,450.00; Article 5 \$160,000.00. And beginning April 1, 2024 the indefinite closure of enrollment of additional WIOA CCMEP only eligible youth to the program unless those youth are identified as having the barrier of being homeless. Amend the OhioGuidestone agreement for CCMEP WIOA and TANF for the term of 10/01/2023 to provide an additional \$37,408.00 of CCMEP WIOA and/or special grant compensation broken out in the following way: Article 1 \$12,469.00; Article 2 \$20,782.00; Article 3-5 \$4,157.00. And GCJFS will provide an additional \$104,000.00 of CCMEP TANF compensation and provide an additional \$49,999.00 for a total of \$50,000.00 of Regular TANF compensation for the Simply Summer Program, GCJFS will not provide any ODJFS summer only TANF funding (striking the \$1.00 award), and beginning April 1, 2024 the indefinite closure of enrollment of additional WIOA CCMEP only eligible youth to the program, unless those youth are identified as having the barrier of being homeless. Amend the PCJFS CCMEP WIOA agreement term 10/01/2023 to provide an additional \$30,000.00 of CCMEP WIOA and/or special grant compensation to Article 1. Amend the PCJFS Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Miscellaneous agreement term 07/01/2023 to provide an additional \$193,476.00 of WIOA and/or special grant compensation broken out in the following way: Staffing \$100,000.00; ITAs \$50,000.00; IWTs \$20,000.00; Supportive Services \$23,476.00. Additional CCMEP WIOA and/or special grant compensation in the amount of \$44,867.00 awarded to Portage County is being held in reserve for now.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve finalized Amendments, adding funding, and amending contracts outlined in board handout labeled Appendix to NOC COG Agenda, May 22, 2024. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

New Business

Presentation of the CCMEP Evaluation Study.

Mr. Sernik reviewed the CCMEP statewide evaluation recommendations with those present. Portage County was the only Area 19 county that was selected for the evaluation. Only 15 percent of the youth statewide are exiting the program with some type of occupational skills training and only 4 percent of the total youth that go into the program actually end up with an ITA.

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 12:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.