NORTHEAST OHIO CONSORTIUM ("NOC")
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, March 27, 2026
12:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Commissioner Casey Kozlowski Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Commissioner Jim Dvorak
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Lisa Milgate (GCJFS), Hanna Molnar (OMJ-Portage), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), John Kravetz (GCJFS), Yomna Petrone (PCJFS), Lisa Fay (PCJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of Past Business

Approval of the Minutes from .
Ms. Bennett moved to approve the minutes from February 18, 2026. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports

Administrative Report. Mr. Sernik reported the unemployment number for the State is 4 percent, Ashtabula is 3.8 percent, Portage is 4.3 percent, and Geauga is 3.1 percent. The State encourages us to work with the WorkOhio Program but said we are not mandated or required to work with this program. The area is fully funded for the coming year DOL flat funded WIOA through congress' actions. The feds have not put out their TEGL yet showing the break out of coming year funds to the 50 States, but once they do Ohio will then break down their allocation to the 88 counties. The unadjusted performance measures show we are passing 13 of 15 measures.

Fiscal Report. Mr. Sernik reported projecting Geauga not spending all of its adult, dislocated worker, and youth.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported 358 new SNAP individuals, doing mock interviews in the high schools, will have career fair in high schools in April, 161 individual visited the resource room in February, and had 118 individuals needing UI assistance. Held a hiring event for Rural King, Jersey Mike's, Lake Erie Correctional, and Pennsylvania Correctional. CCMEP program currently has 621 youth with 241 in follow-up, OSU came to the see the HUB Bridges to see about replicating, and RESEA continues to see individuals from Fairfield County that also has a City of Geneva as does Ashtabula. Received 23 job orders from employers, 94 youth applications since January, and dealing with SNAP/ENT work requirement changes.

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Milgate reported RESEA had 162 in February, 200 cam through the Career Center, CCMEP youth enrolled is 34 with 24 working on being exited, and attended the Auburn Career Center Reverse Job Fair. Matt Blevens has resigned and will be working to find his replacement. Working with COSI to plan an event in Geauga County, partnered with Geauga County fire departments to do incumbent worker training and so far have done four applications. Also working with Geauga Growth Partnership to do incumbent worker training for the medical field.

OMJ Portage County. Ms. Molnar reported the CCMEP program has five case managers overseeing 105 youth, 109 individuals came through the career center, three active ITAs with 40 on a wait list for adult training, RESEA had 55 individuals selected, Re-entry Resource Fair will be held April 16th from 1 to 4pm, a summer hiring event will be held in May, PRC back to school application voucher program opens in June, and the CCMEP work experience fair will be held April 18th at the OMJ Center.

Old Business

CCMEP Status of Request for Proposals. Mr. Sernik reported a joint RFP was issued by NOC Office and GCJFS for the Employer of Record for CCMEP in which one bid was received from Nesco Services. They are the entity that has been doing the Employer of Record for the CCMEP program in Geauga County under a subcontract with OhioGuidestone. May need to go back out for bid if negotiations fail. NOC COG issued an RFP for the 10 of the WIOA elements with services beginning April 1st with only one bid from GCJFS. The third RFP was issued by NOC Office and ACJFS with one bid received from A-Tech. And the fourth is a joint RFP issued by NOC Office and PCJFS for 10 of the 14 elements that will be received on April 8th and reviewed with services beginning in July for an 18 month contract.

Budget for A-Tech WIOA CCMEP 18 month contract April 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027:
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into joint negotiations, along with staff of the ACJFS in furtherance of executing a written agreement for the provision of CCMEP program services for the following terms and conditions: 1) Award A-Tech a WIOA CCMEP Contract; 2) Term: 18 months, 4/1/2026 to 9/30/2027; 3) Total Budget not to exceed: $1.7 million dollars $1.4 million TANF; 4) WIOA Budget not to exceed: $300,000 unless otherwise amended in the future. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Budget for GCJFS WIOA CCMEP 6 month contract April 1, 2026 through Sept. 30, 2026.
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to authorized the Executive Director to enter into negotiations to execute an agreement in furtherance of the following WIOA budgets for the 6 month period from April 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026 for the enumerated services that follow: Pre-Enrollment, Framework Design & Case Management, Occupational Skills Training, Pre-Employment Skills Training, OJT Programming, and Transportation/Supportive Services, LMI, etc., services in the amount of $20,000.00. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Budget for GCJFS WIOA RFP Issued by Area 19:
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations in furtherance of executing a written agreement for the provision of CCMEP program services for the following terms and conditions: 1) Award Provider: GCJFS; 2) Initial Term, April 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026; 3) WIOA Budget not to exceed: $20,000.00; 4) For the following programming: Academic Programming Services, Work Experience, Mentoring, Counseling & Treatment, Re-Entry Program, Financial Literacy, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship & Leadership. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Budget for GCJFS WIOA RFP Issued Jointly by GCJFS and Area 19 (1 element – employer of record):
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into joint negotiations, along with staff of the GCJFS in furtherance of executing a written agreement for the provision of CCMEP. 1) Either successfully negotiate and ward Nesco Services a contract for acceptable terms and conditions, or go back out to bid. 2)Term: Initial Term, Maximum 6 months, 4/1/2026 to 9/30/2026. 3) Total Budget not to exceed: $10,000.00 of both TANF and WIOA with profit to be fairly negotiated in an amount not to exceed 10% of provider's total operating expenses (direct and indirect). 4) WIOA Budget not to exceed: $3,500.00. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Budgets for Portage JFS Program Year 2026.
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the following WIOA budgets for the 18 month period from April 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027:

1) **WIOA Budget for 18 month period for Pre-Enrollment, Framework Design & Case Management, Occupational Skills Training, Pre-Employment Skills Training, OJT Programming, and Transportation/Supportive Services, Job Club, LMI, etc., services in the amount of $345,525.00**
2) **WIOA Budget for all other remaining services for 18 month period:**
   April – June 2026. $ 45,000.00 (giving to FCS)
   July 2026 – Sept 2027. $205,000.00 (services out for bid)
   $250,000.00

Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

New Business

CCMEP Agreements.

Geauga JFS Program Year 2025 CCMEP Youth Agreement (April 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026).
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to allow the Area 19 WDB executive director to enter into a contract with GCJFS to provide the following identified WIOA CCMEP program elements and services for a period beginning April 1, 2026, and for a period to end September 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $40,000.00. GCJFS shall deliver all of the following services to WIOA CCMEP eligible and enrolled participants, which it also delivers to all of the TANF CCMEP eligible and enrolled participants:

- **Outreach, Intake, Eligibility Determinations; and Framework Design Including Case Management.**

A. Staffing, Direct & Indirect	**$15,000.00**
B. Direct Expenditures Inc. Trans. & Sup. Services	**$ 5,000.00**
SubTotal	**$20,000.00**

- **Employment, Work Experience Paid and Unpaid**

A. Staffing, Direct and Indirect	**$ 2,000.00**
B. Direct Expenditures Including Wages	**$10,000.00**
SubTotal	**$12,000.00**

- **Miscellaneous Programming (All of the Remaining 14 Elements)**
- **Remainder of 14 Elements.**

A. Staffing, Direct and Indirect	**$ 5,000.00**
B. Direct Expenditures	**$ 3,000.00**
SubTotal	**$ 8,000.00**
Total	**$40,000.00**

Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Portage JFS 18 Month Term PY25 and PY26 CCMEP Youth Agreement.
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to allow the Area 19 WDB executive director to enter into a contract with PCJFS to provide the following identified WIOA CCMEP program elements and services for a period beginning April 1, 2026, and for a period to end September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $345,525.00. PCJFS shall deliver all of the following services to WIOA CCMEP eligible and enrolled participants, which it also delivers to all of the TANF CCMEP eligible and enrolled participants:

	WIOA
• **Pre-Enrollment Eligibility/LMI/Job Club Framework Design**	**$262,650.00**
• **Pre-Employment Skills Training**	**$ 10,000.00**
• **Occupational Skills Training**	**$ 25,500.00**
• **On-the-Job Training Programming with Employer Reimbursement for Permanently Placed CCMEP Youth.**	**$ 2,750.00**
• **Supportive Services Including Transportation**	**$ 44,625.00**
Total	**$345,525.00**

Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Family & Community Services, Inc. Program Year 2024 CCMEP Youth Agreement (Portage County).

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the PY24 WIOA Youth Program Services Agreement with Family & Community Services (Portage County) to amend the conclusion of the term of the agreement from March 31, 2026, to that of June 30, 2026, unless terminated earlier; and to amend the amount of compensation available during the amended term by adding an additional $44,650.00 WIOA and $106,375.00 TANF.

	WIOA	TANF
• Academic Programming Services	$ 1,025.00	$ 3,250.00
• Wage Processing Subsidy Services	$ 26,500.00	$ 75,125.00
• Mentoring	$ 13,750.00	$ 22,500.00
• Counseling & Treatment	$ 62.50	$ 62.50
• Re-Entry Program	$ 62.50	$ 62.50
• Financial Literacy	$ 500.00	$ 250.00
• Life Skills	$ 2,750.00	$ 5,125.00
TOTAL:	$ 44,650.00	$106,375.00

Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

A-Tech 18 Month Term PY25 and PY26 CCMEP Youth Agreement.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to allow the Area 19 WDB executive director to enter into a contract with A-Tech to provide the following identified WIOA CCMEP program elements and services for a period beginning April 1, 2026, and for a period to end September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $300,000.00. A-Tech shall deliver all of the services to WIOA CCMEP eligible and enrolled participants, excluding those provided exclusively to ACJFS, which it shall also deliver to all of the TANF CCMEP eligible and enrolled participants:

- **Framework Design Including Case Management and Supportive Services.**
  - **A. Staffing $ 50,000.00**
  - **B. Indirect Expenditures $ 15,000.00**
  - **C. Direct Expenditures $ 52,000.00**
  - **SubTotal $117,000.00**
- **Employment, Work Experience Paid and Unpaid**
  - **A. Staffing $ 25,000.00**
  - **B. Indirect Expenditures $ 3,268.00**
  - **C. Direct Expenditures $ 75,829.15**
  - **SubTotal $104,097.16**
- **Miscellaneous Programming (All of the Remaining 14 Elements)**
  - **A. Staffing $ 35,000.00**
  - **B. Indirect Expenditures $ 7,902.84**
  - **C. Direct Expenditures $ 36,000.00**
  - **SubTotal $ 78,902.84**
  - **Total $300,000.00**

Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

WDB Resignations:
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to accept the resignation of Dawn Farrell, Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority, representing Transportation/Housing/Public Assistance and/or Philanthropic Organizations for Geauga County, from the Area 19 Workforce Board. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

WDB Membership Re-appointments:
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the Slate of Re-appointments to the Area 19 Workforce Board for a 2-year term:

- **Eric Davis, Electrical JATC Warren, representing Apprenticeship for Geauga County.**
- **Lynn Hartman, OOD, representing Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities for Portage, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties.**
- **Mike DeLuke, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, representing Labor for Portage County.**
- **Alissa Holdson, Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, representing Community Organization for Ashtabula County.**

Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

NOC COG Office Lease with GMHA.
Enter into a new lease with GMHA with no increase in rent and both parties would have a 90-day out clause effective July 1, 2026.
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to add the motion to renew lease with GMHA with no increase and with a 90-day out clause. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to renew the lease with GMHA with no increase and with a 90-day out clause. Mr. Kozlowski 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. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring