

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Ashtabula County Offices, Meeting Room
2924 Donahoe Drive Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Casey Kozlowski
 Commissioner Jim Dvorak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Hattie Grubke-Barnard (OMJ-Ashtabula), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Patrick Arcaro (ACJFS-Director), Carly Spencer (OMJ-Portage), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

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

Approval of Past Business

Approval of the Minutes from September 24, 2025.

Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the minutes from September 24, 2025. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports

Administrative Report. Mr. Sernik reported the PY24 fourth quarter Unadjusted Performance report shows the area is currently failing one measure, the Adult Credential Attainment. OMJ-Geauga has asked if they could stop selecting individuals for RESEA for a short time. OMJ-Geauga now has two new Auburn staff and hired Matthew Blevens to do WIOA, RESEA, CCMEP, and Public Assistance. ODJFS program monitored OMJ-Portage which was more of a data validation monitoring. Received the CCMEP Mystery Shopper report in which Ashtabula and Geauga were selected. The Connector Hub Grant was put out by the state of Ohio, is basically the WIOA model, is not much money, and there will be a state portal for individuals looking to obtain jobs or obtain better jobs that will send them to whoever receives this grant to be assessed, receive job planning, career planning coaching, and then either place the individuals into training or education. Industry Sector Partnerships, we have given a letter of support to the Lake to River

Jobs Ohio Region which is also headed up by the Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition to start the Medical Industry Sector Partnership. Received a report yesterday that shows that ASWA looks to be completely deadlocked and recertification of WIOA is not likely to go anywhere next year.

Fiscal Report. Mr. Sernik stated he did get all of the Geauga County monies swapped with Ashtabula and Portage Counties in a timely manner. Only two things remain they are a couple hundred dollars that will need closed out on a Portage grant and the second half of the swap of monies spent by Ashtabula and Portage to Geauga. Approximately \$14,000 was returned to the State this year which was mostly Geauga dislocated worker.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Geauga County. Mr. Sernik reported Matthew Blevens was hired as the new Geauga WIOA/RESEA/CCMEP/Public Assistance Worker and began his first day this past Monday.

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported the OMJ Center had 70 individuals in the Resource Room in September of which 42 individuals were in need of unemployment assistance, PA Correctional did a hiring event for their Albion Correctional Facility, Ashtabula APL came for a hiring event last month, no rapid response events, collected 6 applications for the City of Ashtabula, hired an individual to do SNAP ET/ABAWD, RESEA for September had 9 scheduled initial and 11 subsequent, approved three individuals for CDL-A training, planning to attend the prison's December re-entry fair, continue to attend Second Chance Circle, yO! has 711 youth as of October 15th, and yO! lost the Hub training facility and will need to be out by December 31st. But they have one promising lead for space at a local church. Mr. Sernik stated he and Ms. Grubke had a conversation with a group that is trying to sell the ESC on training teacher aids, which does not look like a good program unless they get recognized as an actual registered apprenticeship.

OMJ Portage County. Ms. Spencer reported WIOA adult and dislocated worker program had a problem last year with running out of money very early. But this year they were very tight with advertising, etc. and were expecting to spend more thus far but are going to loosen the reins a little bit on this. RESEA program is going well, CCMEP doing well and continue to be in the Juvenile Detention Center presenting OMJ-Works, and a Job Fair will be held on November 13th at the Ravenna Reed Memorial Library.

Old Business

RFP update. Mr. Sernik reviewed the NOC COG Memorandum Procurement of CCMEP handout with all those present. If the Area ends up having CDJFS' providing any services, it will need a paragraph within the agreements regarding how it will manage any potential conflict of interests.

PCJFS CCMEP Youth Agreement for Program Year 2024. There was no need for this motion because Portage has the ability to move 20 percent of their sub-budgets around. Portage would like the motion approved on May 28, 2025, rescinded and allow the provision for them to move the money around in the contract to apply.

Mr. Dvorak moved to rescind the motion approved on May 28, 2025 to move \$3,000.00 from the On-the-Job-Training budget to the Supportive Services budget line provided for within the WIOA CCMEP Contract with PCJFS for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, for it is not needed. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

New Business

DOL Pending Monitoring. Mr. Sernik stated he was supposed to meet with ODJFS for the pre DOL monitoring planning this week, but since the government was shut down the meeting was put on hold.

Support of One or More Hub Connector Grant Applications. **Mr. Dvorak moved to authorize Director with agreement by CDJFS staff to support one or more Hub Connector grant applications in the Lake to River and TEAM NEO economic development regions. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

WDB Membership New Appointments. **Mr. Dvorak moved to approve Jaime Fisher, Integrated Care, to the Area 19 Workforce Board for a 2-year term, as a representative of Geauga County Business. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

WDB Membership Re-appointments: **Mr. Dvorak moved to approve Mark Goffinet, OWD/ODJFS, to the Area 19 Workforce Board for a 2-year term, as a representative of Wagner-Peyser & Vets for Portage, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

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 11:48 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring