NORTHEAST OHIO CONSORTIUM ("NOC")
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
11:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Casey Kozlowski
Commissioner Jim Dvorak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), John Kravetz (GCJFS), Carly Spencer (OMJ-Portage), Rebecca Abbott (PCJFS), Lisa Milgate (GCJFS), Yomna Petrone (PCJFS), Lisa Fay (PCJFS), 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 .
Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the minutes from March 27, 2026. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports

Administrative Report. Mr. Sernik reported the March 2026 unemployment numbers for Ashtabula County have increased, Portage County have decreased, and Geauga County have increased. The Area has received an additional $22,000.00 of RESEA funding in May. Have not yet heard what the PY2026 RESEA funding will be but hope to hear in the next 60 to 90 days. Did a special Incumbent Worker Training program for Geauga County fire departments. The Area received its PY26/FY27 allocation showing a slight decrease to Ashtabula Youth and Adult funding but some of this is offset by an increase in Dislocated Worker. Contracted with Sal Consiglio, Inc. to conduct the Area's PY25 fiscal monitoring. Both the fiscal and program monitoring will be done in the month of June. A Wagner/Peyser State Rep partner was added to the OMJ-Portage Center for PY26 MOU One-Stop. Looking into whether the Community Block grant will need to be added to the OMJ-Portage Center for PY26 MOU One-Stop now that Portage is a comprehensive center. Performance Measure reports for 3rd Quarter were received and show we are failing Employment 2nd Quarter for adult and Measurable Skill Gains. And for Dislocated Worker we are failing Measurable Skill Gains and the same under WIOA Youth but is likely to change for 4th quarter. The Ohio Workforce Association is working on appealing the State's rule on the purchase of branding items this is because the new TEGL issued from the feds would allow for the purchase of branding items to be used.

Fiscal Report.

Mr. Dvorak moved to authorize the Executive Director to allocate to NOC COG 10% of the final PY26/FY27 award to as administrative expenditures; and ACJFS, GCJFS, and PCJFS their share of the final PY26/FY27 awards as determined by ODJFS' county finance division, when those funds are made available in CFIS. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion of Redistribution of Geauga PY24/FY25 Funds.

Mr. Sernik reported that Geauga estimates they will not expend approximately $173,000.00 in adult and dislocated worker and $35,000.00 in WIOA CCMEP. Ashtabula and Portage can definitely consume all of the $35,000.00 in WIOA CCMEP and both are currently doing estimations on how much they can consume in adult and dislocated worker. This motion will not give the executive director the authority or will not establish if we transfer any money back to Geauga this will be decided at a future meeting.

Mr. Dvorak moved to authorize the Executive Director to transfer PY24/FY25 Adult, D.W., and WIOA CCMEP funds previously awarded to GCJFS in an amount not to exceed $173,000.00 in Adult and D.W., and $35,000.00 in WIOA CCMEP to ACJFS and PCJFS in amounts authorized and agreed to by them so that they may recode PY25/FY26 expenditures against the same. The determination of whether PY25/FY26 funds, and in what amounts will be provided in return to GCJFS will be determined by a majority vote of the NOC COG Commissioners at a future regular or specially scheduled meeting. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Recently Received Additional $22,000.00 in RESEA PY25A Funding.

Mr. Dvorak moved to authorize $2,200.00 of PY25A RESEA newly received administrative funding to be distributed to the NOC COG, and the remaining $19,800.00 of PY25A RESEA funding to be distributed on as needed basis to ACJFS and/or PCJFS by the Executive Director based upon their needs through June 30, 2026. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Milgate reported in February the OMJ-Geauga Center served 200 individuals and in March it dropped to 187, RESEA services stabilized, an Auburn employee that assisted Jodie Clute with RESEA program took another job position, CCMEP currently has 20 in-school youth and 15 out-of-school youth, a quarterly partner meeting is scheduled for June 17th, doing outreach to resources in community for CCMEP, and will need to get contract finalized with NESCO as the employer of record and then do some outreach to some companies to be part of youth work experience program.

OMJ Portage County. Ms. Spencer reported the Wagner/Peyser representative started today at the OMJ Center, RESEA staff continue to select all individuals, CCMEP had an uptick because of summer employment seeing 10 to 15 more applications than usual last month, re-entry fair was held in April which was successful with 57 community partners serving 57 participants, and gearing up for back to school PRC vouchers.

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported the STEM camp will begin the week of July 13th, the month of April had 133 individuals visit the OMJ Center of those 74 needed UI assistance, the new unemployment system "Buckeye UI" will be rolling out this fall, A-Tech is busy preparing for summer youth employment program receiving 50 applications so far, 19 volunteers for the SNAP/ENT program with half who have found employment, CCMEP had 214 scheduled appointments with mandated individuals, as of May 27th the yO! program has 641 youth, and the GRIT program is very active with an aviation program located in Geauga County this summer.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Portage Development Board Agreement.
Mr. Dvorak moved to authorize a contract with Portage Development Board to provide business services to Portage County for the period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $7,500.00 of WIOA funds. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Status of Joint PCJFS and Area 19 WDB/NOC COG RFP for Portage County TANF and WIOA CCMEP (6 categories/appendices of services). Proposals were received from HopeTown, Axess Family Services Inc., Nesco Resources, and Deenix. The most favorably scored proposals were Axess Family Services Inc. and Hopetown, but Nesco and Deenix were scored least favorably. Hopetown bid to do justice involved services and Leadership but did not bid to do it for all of the youth and because of this PCJFS is unsure if they want to move forward.

RFP Issued: March 13, 2026
RFP Due: April 8, 2026
Proposals: Hope Town Inc., Axess Family Services, Nesco Resources, DEENIX.

Potential Budget for Hope Town, Inc. (Portage County) WIOA CCMEP 15-month contract July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.
Mr. Dvorak moved to Table the Motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into joint negotiations, along with staff of the PCJFS, in furtherance of executing a written agreement for the provision of CCMEP program services for the following terms and conditions:

- **Award Hope Town, Inc. a WIOA CCMEP Contract;**
- **Term 15-months, 7/1/2026 to 9/30/2027;**
- **With Budgets to be negotiated for the following program services:**

1. Leadership	**$15,000**	**$25,000**
2. Justice Involved	**$15,000**	**$25,000**
Total	**$30,000**	**$50,000**

- **WIOA Amount not to exceed 50% of total award.**

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

Budget for Axess Family Services (Portage County) WIOA CCMEP 15-month contract July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

Mr. Dvorak moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into joint negotiations, along with staff of the PCJFS, in furtherance of executing a written agreement for the provision of CCMEP program services for the following terms and conditions:

- **Award Axess Family Services a WIOA CCMEP Contract.**
- **Term 15 months, 7/1/2026 to 9/30/2027.**
- **With Budgets to be negotiated for the following program services:**

	Low	High
3. Tutoring and Study Skills.	$ 20,800	$ 26,000
4. Work Experience	$313,516	$391,895
5. Life Skills (Ed. and Job Prep., Fin. Lit.)	$ 46,004	$ 57,505
6. Entrepreneurship	$ 12,880	$ 16,100
7. Adult Mentoring	$111,200	$139,000
8. Substance and Behavioral Health	$ 15,600	$ 19,500
Totals	$520,900	$650,000

- **WIOA Amount not to exceed 50% of total award.**

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

WDB Membership New Appointment:

Mr. Dvorak moved to remove Sean Shapiro of Geauga Growth Partnership, and replace his appointment with Kimm Leininger, Geauga Growth Partnership, 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.

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 11:40 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring