NORTHEAST OHIO CONSORTIUM ("NOC")
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
11:00 a.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 (OMJ-GC), Alyssa Steinhoff (GCJFS), Lisa Fay (PCJFS), Yomna Petrone (PCJFS), Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), Carly Spencer (OMJ-Portage), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Ms. Christian-Bennett called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m.

Approval of Past Business

Approval of the Minutes from August 26, 2026.
Mr. Kozlowski moved to approve the minutes from July 1, 2026. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports

Administrative Report. Mr. Sernik reported June 2026 unemployment numbers for the Area 19 counties. The RESEA program is doing well and continues to serve any individual deemed eligible for the program gets selected and on occasion serving Cuyahoga and Lake County residents as well but if this becomes too much we may disinvite them. Received an advance of RESEA funds from ODJFS of a little over $50,000 with Portage getting $25,000, Ashtabula $15,000 and Geauga $10,000. This will be the split going forward. The area is still holding onto $19,800 in reserve PY25A and $4,578 in PY26. Recently MVMC reached out to OMJ Ashtabula to offer to provide $25,000 for Ashtabula to do the work as part of the OhioWork grant of which Ashtabula turned down the offer. JobsOhio put out an Earn and Learn Concierge Service RFP and the awardee will be announced the end of August. It was announced that TechCred opens October 1st with the amount of reimbursement changed from up to $2,000 per employee to instead up to $1,000 per employee. Because TechCred reimbursement is now lower Area 19 may need to re-examine its IWT policy and should we allow companies to apply where they're getting TechCred, but TechCred is not enough to cover it, and they would like for the area to cover with local incumbent training funds.

Fiscal Report.
Redistribution of Funds.
Mr. Sernik reported Portage and Ashtabula completed all of the recoding of expenditures. Thinking Geauga County might have more underspent to send to Ashtabula and Portage Counties, but now it is the other way around due to an error on an over/under printed out in CFIS.

NOC COG GAAP Conversion.
Mr. Kozlowski moved to approve a 1-year agreement with Salvatore Consiglio, CPA, Inc. to perform the GAAP Conversion for the year ended June 30, 2026, for the NOC COG Office. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Ashtabula County.
Ms. Grubke reported 14 adults just graduated with another 22 adults waiting for approval for training lots of CDL drivers, LPN and RN training. Still receiving job orders, 93 people in the resource room in July 60 of those were there for unemployment assistance, state level staff are getting trained on the new UI system that will start in November, continue to be busy with SNAP and ABAWD, RESEA is busy, and CCMEP has 667 participants with 258 in follow-up and 66 summer youth. Took 15 youth to Kent State University to show the youth this is an option with one youth who got to go to a special program at Kent State University, and the Ashtabula Manufacturing Camp concluded.

OMJ Geauga County.
Ms. Milgate reported Geauga Growth Partnership's Tammy Franks has been getting word out regarding the Incumbent Worker Training industry sector partnership for the healthcare industry. Six incumbent worker training applications were done this year, CCMEP has 36 participants, working with getting the CCMEP work experience program up and running and have one employer enrolled so far and outreaching to other companies that have expressed interest. Did post a position in Geauga County for an OMJ Division Director.

OMJ Portage County.
Ms. Spencer reported ITAs are increasing with individuals starting LPN and also a lot of CDLs. RESEA is good but had a glitch last week with one person only selected, CCMEP youth are ready to exit. Business Services is slower right now and gearing up for job fairs with schools asking for workforce preparation.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Data Sharing and Confidentiality Agreement.
Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to authorize the NOC COG CLEO and the Executive Director to enter into and execute a two-year SFY 27-29 Local Area Data Sharing and Confidentiality Agreement D-OWD-OCARTS-000123 with ODJFS effective from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2028. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

RFP Issued Jointly by PCJFS and Area 19 for CCMEP Leadership Services for Portage County. Budget for Axess Family Services (Portage County) WIOA CCMEP Leadership services 15-month contract July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations along with staff of the PCJFS, with Axess Family Service in furtherance of executing a written Agreement for the provision of CCMEP program Leadership service for the following terms and conditions, and to authorize the CLEO of the NOCCOG to sign and enter into that Agreement including the following terms and conditions.

- **Award Axess Family Services a WIOA CCMEP Contract;**
- **Term 15-months, 7/1/2026 to 9/30/2027;**
- **With Budget to be negotiated for the following program services.**
  1) **Leadership: WIOA $6,674.00 TANF $15,574.00**

Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Budgets for the Program Year 2026 CCMEP Contracts (term 10/1/2026 to 9/30/2027):

Ashtabula JFS:

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement for a WIOA CCMEP Budget to support an Agreement with ACJFS for CCMEP services in the amount not to exceed $40,000.00 for the fiscal year 2026 from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027, and to authorize the NOC COG CLEO to executive that Agreement, for all of the following CCMEP services: a) Pre-Enrollment Eligibility; b) Provision of Labor Market Info.; c) Pre-Employment Skills; d) Occupational Skills Training; e) OJTs; f) Case Management for Mandated Youth. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Geauga JFS:

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement for a WIOA CCMEP Budget to support an Agreement with GCJFS for fiscal year 2026. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

NESCO: (Geauga – does employer of record).

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement along with GCJFS for a WIOA and TANF CCMEP budget to support an Agreement with NESCO for WIOA CCMEP services for fiscal year 2026 from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Amendments to the PY25 and PY26 MOU Budgets.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with the OhioMeansJobs Portage County Center Operator and Providers to allow for any needed amendments to the PY25 and/or PY26 MOU and MOU Budgets, and for the CLEO for the NOC COG to enter into any MOU amendments agreed upon by the OhioMeansJobs Portage County Center Operator and Providers. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Amendments to the PY25 WIOA, RESEA, and Miscellaneous Services Agreement and Budget.
Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with PCJFS to amend their PY25 WIOA, RESEA, and Miscellaneous Services Agreement and Budget by moving from the WIOA program services budgets to the WIOA MOU budget in order to provide for actual expenses greater than originally budgeted. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with PCJFS to amend their PY25 WIOA, RESEA, and Miscellaneous Services Agreement and Budget by moving an amount from the RESEA program services budgets to the RESEA MOU budget in order to provide for actual expenses greater than originally budgeted. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Amendments to the PY26 WIOA, RESEA, and Miscellaneous Services Agreement and Budget.
Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with PCJFS to amend their PY26 WIOA, RESEA, and Miscellaneous Services Agreement and Budget by moving an amount from the WIOA program services budgets to the WIOA MOU budget in order to provide for actual expenses greater than originally budgeted. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with PCJFS to amend their PY26 WIOA, RESEA, and Miscellaneous Services Agreement and Budget by moving an amount from the RESEA program services budgets to the RESEA MOU budget in order to provide for actual expenses greater than originally budgeted. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion regarding Performance Measures.
Mr. Sernik explained after the federal statistical regression analysis was applied to the area's PY24 performance measures the area did fail one performance measure credential attainment missed passing by 4.7 points and this is the second year in a row that the area filed that measure. If the area fails it this year then the Governor's office does need to implement some type of corrective action. Only if you fail three years in a row the same performance measure does this have to happen. The PY25 Performance Measures for Quarter 4 show the area is currently failing Adult Employment 2nd Quarter after Exit, Dislocated Worker Measurable Skills Gains, and Measurable Skills Gain under CCMEP Youth. Will have the final year end for the September board meeting. Looks like the area is comfortably passing the PY25 Adult Credential Attainment that the area failed two years in a row. Mr. Sernik explained that it is time to negotiate performance measures with ODJFS for PY26 and PY27.
Mr. Kozlowski moved to authorize the Executive Director along with the Lead Agencies for CCMEP to decide upon what ODJFS proposed performance measures, if any, they would like to negotiate to a different standard that what has been proposed by ODJFS, authorization to engage in said negotiations, and to authorize the Directors of the same along with the CLEO for the NCO COG to execute any agreement on acceptable negotiated performance measured for PY26 and PY27. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Executive Session.
The Board decided to move the NOC COG staff compensation discussion to the next scheduled meeting on September 23, 2026.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn the Meeting

Mr. Kozlowski moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.