

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

February 5, 2020
1:30 PM

OMJ Center-Portage County, Meeting Room,
253 S. Chestnut Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Patrick Arcaro (ACDJFS), Mandy Berardinelli (OMJ-Portage), Ron Smith (ACDJFS), Sue Brannon (PCJFS), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Brian Boykin (PCJFS), Hattie Grubke-Barnard (OMJ-Ashtabula), Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Craig Swenson (GCJFS), Kim Brown (OhioGuidestone), Veronica Curry (OhioGuidestone), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 1:44 p.m.

Minutes

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the minutes from January 8, 2020 meeting. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion commenced regarding employers within Area 19 who were not awarded the TechCred. Discussion concluded.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported each of the OMJ Centers did employer outreach before Christmas and again the first week of January to announce the TechCred application period opening January 1st. The OMJ Ashtabula Center held an employer event presenting the OPED Apprenticeship Grant, the TechCred program, the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula apprenticeship program, and the additive manufacturing program to Ashtabula employers. The Appalachian grant class is free to all counties

within Appalachia and for a small fee to those counties who are not. A class will be tuition free for Ashtabula if it has a business cohort of 20 representatives. Mr. Kozlowski stated the ARC is sponsoring offering an opportunity for students and teachers to visit the Oakridge STEM Research Center in Tennessee from July 5th to the 17th. This is only for Appalachian counties. Students must be age 16 by July 2020. Mr. Sernik is working on the Ohio Excels strategic planning and the planning of the Aim Hire Conference scheduled for May 14th. State guidance was received regarding Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) that areas are allowed to offer and pay for Six Sigma, LEAN and other types of managerial logistics and LEAN types of training. And if a cohort of employees' majority is 6 months or more employment history with an employer the new hires can be included. A Workforce Retreat is scheduled for mid-April at the Maumee Bay Conference Center. Waiting for state to respond to the OWA's suggested improvement changes for the CCMEP program before the area can begin planning the summer 14 to 15 year old employment program and the re-procurement of CCMEP. Waiting for a question sent to the state regarding youth who are minors in the program for 6 months needing to see if they're still eligible for the program, but parents don't see the value and will not fill out the income paperwork even if the youth wants to stay in program. Why couldn't the youth re-attest that the income has stayed the same so they could stay in program. The State program monitor reviewed the Geauga files last month.

Fiscal Report

Ms. Laveck reported the State fiscal monitor, John Edgell, has completed the monitoring of NOC COG and the ACDJFS/OMJ-Ashtabula Center. Question asked when will the actual monitoring report be received. Ms. Laveck responded six months to a year. State Auditors are currently at the NOC COG performing the audit for Program Year 2019.

One Stop Youth Reports

OMJ Center Portage County.

Ms. Berardinelli reported she was contacted by the Ravenna High School counselors who asked the OMJ Center to arrange an employer bus tour for students going into the employment track. This has been scheduled for May 1st. Planning a guidance counselor breakfast to introduce them to workforce readiness and, so far, 17 guidance counselors scheduled to attend. At this event the state will discuss the K-12 enhancements, OOD will present their "College to Careers" program. The OMJ-Portage Center is opening their manufacturing program to students this year. The Career Expo has been scheduled for May 8th during in-demand jobs week to be held at Maplewood Career Center. The Paris Program has been successful with up to eight individuals. A meeting was held in December with Lissa Barry with Delta Systems, Inc. who also serves on the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Maplewood Career Center superintendent and Portage school superintendents, OMJ-Portage Center and NOC COG, State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, and Cassie Palsgrove with SuccessBound all met to review what is done well in area, assets, needs within Portage County and how to make it better. Hoping the outcome of the meeting will be to build a Portage County Business Advisory Council.

OMJ Center Geauga County.

Ms. Reda reported Geauga has an ESC the Western Reserve serving Lake and Geauga. Geauga has three Business Advisory Councils, Kenston which is a stand-alone and Chardon is on the Cuyahoga ESC. A reverse job fair will be held at Auburn Career Center on May 5th, planning a job fair at Chardon High School, and working with Berkshire High School to hold a job readiness for schools bringing in Junior Achievement and their programming to prep students plus will put more staff on floor of job fair to walk students over to employers to introduce them. Auburn Career Center IT students will be creating an infomercial for the OMJ Geauga Center regarding the services at the OMJ Center. The OMJ has a navigator through a grant through Family Pride who works individually at the jail and OMJ-Geauga comes in to do job readiness. The program was suspended in November due to contract staffing changes, but now working with Geauga Sheriff's Office jail to start the program as early as March. Planning to do summer youth employment using regular TANF monies. The OMJ-Geauga is involved with Census job fairs. A total of 10 out of school youth have completed their customer service certification.

OMJ Center Ashtabula County.

Ms. Grubke-Barnard reported the OMJ-Ashtabula Center had seen a total of 13,500 people in 2019, January 2020 the OMJ had 21 new job orders, and planning a summer TANF program using regular PRC money. Planning to hold a spring Job and Career Fair. On February 20th the OMJ and 12 Ashtabula employers will participate in mock interviews with the students at Lakeside High School. Students will learn what it takes to get hired and how this relates to what they're learning in school. An Employer Seminar was held at the OMJ Center with 24 employers. After the seminar spoke to KSU Vintner Program individuals and the state apprenticeship individual regarding the winery industry and what effect it has on Ashtabula County's economy and how to work this into an apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship program and whether to build a cohort and import the Portage manufacturing program.

Old Business

Discussion regarding the draft Area 19 Scorecard.

A rough draft of the scorecard was presented. Would like to have it completed by July for the new program year.

Discussion regarding the Timeline for Youth RFPs and OMJ Operator RFP.

Mr. Sernik reported two procurements will need to be done this year the youth RFPs which will need in place by October 1st and the OMJ-Center Operator RFPs which will need to be in place by July 1st. The Board requested the OMJ Center current services of adult/dislocated worker and youth not be procured. The youth procurement timeline will be updated once the state's response to the CCMEP questions is received.

Mr. Sernik stated items c) and d) under Old Business on the agenda require no action because fiscal is going back to review the numbers. The Board took no action on the Motion to redact the motion made on January 8, 2020 to amend the OhioGuidestone-Geauga County Contract term October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

New Business

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve that each of the Area 19 County Department of Job and Family Services Providers, as part of their Adult and Dislocated Worker contracts for the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, will provide the site for the OhioMeansJobs Centers, one within each county. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion and Motion regarding the designation of the comprehensive OMJ Center required within Area 19.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to designate Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services as the Comprehensive OMJ Center as required within Area 19. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion of the response received from the Department of Labor regarding the providing of employer services to the Medical Cannabis Industry.

Mr. Sernik explained the state received a letter from DOL stating it is still their position that the possession of marijuana is banned by federal law. Therefore, we referred the company Ohio Botanist/Green Leaf to Geauga Growth.

Discussion regarding amending Area Opioid Grant budget.

Mr. Sernik stated DOL responded to the state's petition that the 20 percent cap on supportive services is applied to the state so if there are local areas that will not spend 20 percent any one area can then spend as much as need on supportive services. State has asked Area 19 to redo budget. Each of the Area 19 counties will redo their opioid budgets and then give to Mr. Sernik to submit the new budget as an area to the state.

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved for the Area 19 Executive Director to submit the amended Opioid Grant budget that the subareas submit to him into the state. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion regarding proposed amendments to Intergovernmental Agreement and/or NOC COG By-laws.

Mr. Sernik reviewed the proposed language changes that will allow for the addition of representatives of organizations. The Board requested that additional signature lines be added for each county's prosecutor. Each individual County Commissioners Board will review the proposed amendment.

Mr. Dvorak moved to recommend the proposed amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement to all three Boards of County Commissioners with the addition of signature lines for County Prosecutors for each of the three counties. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion regarding look back period for individual & family self-sufficiency, and determination of low income status. Discussion regarding whether to amend related policies and document forms.

Mr. Sernik explained a change in the federal law regarding look back period language that when determining low income use 6 months this has been eliminated. The State has left it to the areas to

set how long the look backs. Currently Area 19 is leaning towards a look back of 30 days. Will bring this back to the board in March.

Discussion regarding possible amendments to IWT program: Whether to add six sigma and lean and to allow training for those employed less than 6 months if majority of cohort is employed 6 months or more.

Mr. Sernik explained the state made three changes to their IWT training policy. One if the cohort of individuals that the employer wants to train has a majority that have been employed six months or longer can include those who are short term this will be amended in the Area 19 local policy and brought back to the board in March. Questionable is whether to open up Incumbent Worker Training to managerial type programs. If Area 19 choses to open up that it doesn't mean the area will guarantee it would be up to the scoring committees to make the determination of whether or not fund and at what percentage. State has said it can be open up to these types of programs based upon the employer would have to show this would lead to increased promotional opportunities or result in a raise. As an area we would only have to pay a portion where it would lead to a raise. Discussion commenced. Discussion concluded.

Public Comment Period

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

Meeting concluded at 3:31 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.