

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

January 8, 2020  
1:30 p.m.

Geauga County Offices, Board of Health Meeting Room,  
470 Center Street, Building #8,  
Chardon, Ohio 44024

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

**Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the minutes from November 6, 2019 meeting. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported that originally told that under the SOR Grant Area 19 could find a partner to do the surveys associated with it for us, but this has now changed and as a result doubt the area will be pursuing this grant. Area 19 received a third of the Opioid Grant #3, but this grant is capped at 20% on expenditures for supportive services. The area will spend the maximum of 20% on supportive services and the remainder on training. Question was asked if the state answered the question regarding the 20% of grant or what is expensed. Mr. Sernik responded he has not yet and will resubmit the question to the state. Question was asked regarding the total amount of the grant to Area 19. Mr. Sernik responded \$315,000 including admin monies for the area for two years. Mr. Sernik reported the state has new pathways to graduation, secondary STEM education, supporting career technical education, and CCMEP programming. Area 19 is becoming involved with the BAC's at the local school district level fully engaged in Geauga and Ashtabula Counties and Portage County is currently working to improve efforts to bring the BAC's together. The AIM

HIRE Conference which is part of the Complete to Compete and Ohio Excels will be held in May of this year. Ms. Berardinelli and Mr. Sernik have both been attending and assisting with the Ohio Excels planning. The state announced they'll be loosening up Incumbent Worker Training to make it look broader and more liberal based upon recent guidance that they received from the Department of Labor. The state will issue a memo first and then the memo will be rolled into their policy. Area 19's three counties blasted out the TechCred application opportunity that is open from January 2<sup>nd</sup> and closes on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Program monitoring fiscally by the state of Ohio who is focusing mainly on Ashtabula County's CCMEP program. The state audit will be occurring sometime in the month of January. Area 19 is now ready to re-open the WIOA side of the Ashtabula CCMEP Program. Mr. Sernik will be meeting in the spring with each county to discuss state changes to CCMEP and the Area 19 procurement of CCMEP Youth services to have new contracts in place by October 1, 2020. The Area will need to make sure it is enrolling and expending more on out-of-school youth than are on in-school youth. The Workforce Development Board at their December meeting discussed creating an Area 19 scorecard that is more meaningful that measures what the NOC Board and Workforce Board wishes to see. Rapid Response for the closure of the Macy store located on boarder of Summit and Portage Counties and Huntington Bank closing locations within the Giant Eagle grocery stores. Mr. Sernik stated a draft of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the suggested change to allow organizations that represent businesses to serve on the Area 19 WDB as a business representative will be presented at the February NOC COG Board meeting. Ms. Grubke-Bernard stated on February 4<sup>th</sup> she will meet with representatives from the Ohio/Penn Apprenticeship Program and will discuss Incumbent Worker Training and TechCred. And they'll be participating in a phone conference to learn more regarding the Appalachian WORCs grant on additive manufacturing classes which is open only to Appalachian counties. Ms. Berardinelli reported she and Mr. Sernik attended a discussion at Maplewood Career Center on December 18<sup>th</sup> with a few leaders from the business community, education community, and state regarding career awareness/preparation strategies for manufacturing in Portage County. The focus was on assets within the community and what to work on next. Ms. Reda is working with Junior Achievement to prep students with resumes and how to do an interview before they attend the job fair the following month.

### Fiscal Report

None.

### Old Business

Mr. Sernik stated the Ashtabula CCMEP WIOA program can now be re-opened. Amended Contract language will be to open program for 20 slots for individuals to be placed in CCMEP WIOA Program. The CCMEP WIOA program before it was closed had approximately 120 individuals is as of November 30<sup>th</sup> down to 55 individuals. Going forward will need to keep the WIOA expenses under \$30,000 a month in Ashtabula.

**Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the ACDJFS for CCMEP Services Contract term October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 to re-open enrollment. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

**Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to amend the ATECH for CCMEP Services Contract term October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 to re-open enrollment. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

Mr. Sernik explained during the 2019 year conversations were held regarding OhioGuidestone-Geauga's CCMEP expenses hitting more of the TANF side rather than the WIOA side. And there was communication from OhioGuidestone that they could use more TANF monies or bill more to WIOA. Because there was a miscommunication the contract was not amended. The last invoice received from provider is \$18,113 over the compensation amount in the contract term October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. Therefore, the original contract amount of \$393,487 will need to be increased. Requesting to retroactively amend the contract to add compensation in the amount of \$18,113 taking the total compensation amount of contract to \$411,600. Conversations will be held internally to figure how to spread those expenses over WIOA and TANF.

**Mr. Dvorak moved to amend the OhioGuidestone-Geauga County Contract term October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 to reflect an increase of funding from \$393,487.00 to \$411,600.00. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

#### New Business

Mr. Sernik reported the first round of applications for TechCred was awarded on December 6<sup>th</sup> with \$12.5 million available divided into sub-budgets of \$4.1 million for large employers; \$4.1 million available for mid-size employers, and \$4.1 million available for small employers. First round had 1576 incumbent workers approved for training reimbursement, 259 employers applied and were approved of which 171 applications were fully funded and 63 partially funded and 25 were not funded. Lean Sig Six Sigma is still not on the approved list. The credential list has expanded to 379. Next round of Application submission opened on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and will close on January 31<sup>st</sup> with applications reviewed and awarded in February. We will know next week which employers in our workforce area were awarded and rejected.

Mr. Sernik reported the RFQ for BRN software was pushed back due to Portage County's Portage Development Board able to extend their Executive Pulse software for \$1,000.00 for a full year, therefore the RFQ will be for Geauga and Ashtabula Counties. The Geauga County BRN RFP has been completed and will be sent to Ms. Reda for her review. Mr. Sernik will create an Opioid grant summary for outreach, discussing whether to amend the local adult and dislocated worker policy because we can only use 20 percent of the opioid grant on supportive services so maybe co-enroll using adult and dislocated worker monies, appropriateness checklist used by Geauga County to create into a form for the other two counties to use, amend the supportive services policy and procurement policy, and update the conflict of interest policy. The OMJ Operator RFP will be issued the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year and will have discussions regarding the procurement of CCMEP to have contracts in place by October 1, 2020.

#### Public Comment Period

None

**Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to enter into Executive Session for ORC 121.22 (G)(1) for the purpose of discussing personnel. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.**

**Roll call vote: Mr. Dvorak-yes, Ms. Christian-Bennett-yes, Mr. Kozlowski-yes.**

**Executive Session commenced at 2:53 p.m.**

**Executive Session concluded at 3:03 p.m.**

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

Meeting concluded at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.