

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

November 6, 2019

2:00 p.m.

iSTEM at Auburn Career Center, Room 9-D
8140 Auburn Road
Concord Township, Ohio 44077

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ron Smith (ACDJFS), Michelle Tisdale (OMJ-Ashtabula), Peter Ackerman (GCDJFS), Teresa Detwiller (GCJFS), Kim Mullet (GCJFS), Mand Berardinelli (OMJ-Portage), Patrick Arcaro (ACDJFS-Director), Michelle Laveck (Area 19), Denise Gehring (Area 19), Craig Sernik (Area 19-Director), Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Sue Brannon (PCJFS).

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes

Ms. Christian-Bennett moved to approve the minutes from October 2, 2019 meeting. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik reported the Office of Workforce Transformation is focusing on bringing higher ed, workforce, and businesses together as a group to address the issues of the lack of labor and the skills gap . Ms. Berardinelli and Mr. Sernik are taking turns attending the Ohio Excels Group meetings. The Ohio Excels Group is the strongest advocacy group addressing the lack of labor and the skills gap issues. Mr. Sernik has taken the Area 19 county brag books to the state level offering these up as a model for all of the 88 counties in the state to do the same. All three Area 19 counties are working on their next year workforce planning as well as job fairs. Mr. Sernik will be speaking next Tuesday to the TALK Network (Teaching & Leading Knowledge) which is a consortium of curriculum planners for school districts throughout the NOW workforce region. Mr. Sernik will discuss with each OMJ Center whether they wish to either as a whole Area or individually hold a day event to work with secondary and post-secondary guidance counselors to assist them with focusing on workforce issues, planning, and with the message that OMJ is there to be your guidance

counselor for life. The Ashtabula BAC will hold a one or half day retreat in the next few months with the idea to build work groups to work on the job fair and what are some projects that could be worked on together to bring workforce and education together. Ms. Berardinelli stated Portage OMJ is trying to partner with Hiram College this year to hold the job fair. Question was asked regarding the status of the TechCred program. Mr. Sernik responded the budget was passed and the administration moved forward, Senate Finance just moved the bill that has the underlying rules and regulations out of Committee yesterday and it may go to a Senate floor vote today then go to Conference Committee. There will be an amendment that clarifies a list of credentials to be pursued that could be paid for. Mr. Sernik asked if the counties decided whether to use the TABE 1112 or not. Each OMJ manager responded they're using TABE 1112.

Fiscal Report

Ms. Laveck reported preparing the GAAP Conversion and the state fiscal monitoring of PY2017 and PY2018 of Ashtabula County and the NOC COG has begun.

Old Business

Unadjusted Annual WIOA Performance Report for PY18. Mr. Sernik explained ODJFS now has three stages of the Performance Report. ODJFS gives a preliminary report to areas after which a two week period is given for counties to submit adjusted data. Afterwards an Unadjusted Annual report is sent to areas and in a period of four months the report will go through the federal statistical model after which areas will then receive the final report. Discussion continues with the OMJ Center Managers regarding the creation of an area scorecard which will show how the area is doing in the present time.

DRAFT RFP Geauga BRN. The draft Geauga County BRN RFP will be reviewed by Ms. Reda before publishing. Discussion commenced regarding a scoring committee to review proposals.

Mr. Kozlowski moved to establish a scoring committee that is Geauga driven recommending a representative from GCJFS, a representative from the NOC COG Office, one Geauga Commissioner or proxy, and one Geauga Economic Development individual (if not bidding).
Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Software Scoring Committee. Discussion commenced regarding establishing a scoring committee to review proposals. **Mr. Dvorak moved to establish a scoring committee comprised of one representative from each of the CDJFS, one representative from each County Economic Development if they wish to participate, and one representative from the NOC COG Office.**
Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Discussion regarding recruitment for Workforce Board Vacancies. Mr. Sernik reviewed the vacancies on the Workforce Development Board with a focus on Geauga who currently has five business vacancies, one community based vacancy, and one Transportation/Housing & Public Assistance vacancy. The Intergovernmental Agreement states business representation should be

that of someone in the business community but WIOA Statute allows a category that states an area can appoint individuals of organizations that represent businesses in the community. Mr. Sernik asked the Board if they would consider opening this up to these groups for any of the Area 19 Workforce business vacancies and feel comfortable without amending the IGA? The Board responded as in favor of amending the IGA with language that should read “on an as needed basis.”

New Business

Supportive Services Policies. Mr. Sernik stated an issue was found on the Supportive Services policy. Currently, the policy reads if items over \$75, not services, are to be purchased for individuals in adult or dislocated worker then quotes should be obtained. But the problem is that if it is over \$75 it states we will follow the Procurement policy. The Procurement policy has changed and reads that quotes are not necessary if it is under \$3000. Question is should a limit, such as \$1000, be set. It was decided to hold discussions with the OMJ managers and then bring the amended Supportive Services policy back to the December 11th NOC COG Board meeting.

Discussion Regarding Workforce Program Planning for Coming Year. Mr. Sernik reported this will be approached on a county-by-county basis. Currently, Ms. Reda’s discussions are coming out of the BACs, Chardon schools, and ESC. And Ms. Berardinelli’s discussions are with meeting with the schools and their superintendents/guidance counselors then coming up with programming on their own based upon the discussions and the need of the community. Ashtabula would like to hold a retreat because there are other workforce groups that are already meeting that are not currently linked into the OMJ Center.

Discussion of Establishing a Professional Development Day. Currently working on a plan to bring back to the board in the near future.

Public Comment Period

None

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.