

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

October 2, 2019

1:30 p.m.

OMJ Center – Portage County
253 South Chestnut Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mandy Berardinelli (OMJ-Portage), Hattie Grubke-Barnard (OMJ-Ashtabula), Patrick Arcaro (ACDJFS-Director), Ron Smith (ACDJFS), Margo Reda (OMJ-Geauga), Angel Brandner (PCJFS), Sue Brannon (PCJFS), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19)

Mr. Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Dvorak moved to approve the minutes from September 4, 2019 meeting. Ms. Christian-Bennett seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Annual Report on Past Year of Operations - Administrative Report

- *Overview of General Operations.* Mr. Sernik reviewed the fourth quarter performance measures explaining the state measures are put through the federal statistical model that takes into consideration the barriers of the individuals served comparing the barrier level from year to year. So, when statistical model is applied and even though an area may have met their performance measures if they're serving highly barrier individuals an area may see their actual goal rate drop as much as 25 percent. Our area will not know if we passed or failed our measures until December/January. It was suggested to focus on a better local scorecard to be presented quarterly to the board on performances at the current point in time along with a financial showing how much money is spent per individual that is in the program. The state is giving forgiveness on the 2018 performance measures to all areas and will not take in consideration 2018 going forward. It will not be until January 2021 that performance will come into play and an area would be sanctioned.

Fiscal Report

Ms. Laveck not present and will present at the November 6, 2019 NOC COG meeting.

Old Business

- *Update on Youth Contracts.* Mr. Sernik reported a first draft of all the CCMEP Youth contracts has been completed and circulated for review. The final changes to the A-Tech and ACDJFS contracts were agreed upon today. The PCJFS and Family & Community Services, Inc. contracts are currently being reviewed by the PCJFS. The GCJFS and OhioGuidestone contracts are currently being reviewed by GCJFS. And the Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County contract has been finalized and is currently out for signatures.

New Business

- *Update on CCMEP Roundtable.* Mr. Sernik reported the Ohio Workforce Association (OWA) Officers met with ODJFS Director Kimberly Hall to discuss the CCMEP program status. The OWA discussed the need to either eliminate or change the TANF redetermination every six months rule and the rule that if an individual applies for cash assistance an IOP needs to be completed and in the system within 30 days. The OWA also suggested TANF monies should be given to the areas in yearly allocations but with two years to spend the money. A lunch meeting was held afterwards with the Ohio Excel Group to discuss workforce.
- *Presentation.* Mr. Sernik presented a PowerPoint on the Future of Workforce.

OMJ Manager Presentations

- *OMJ Center Portage County.* Ms. Berardinelli reported they've been working for 4 years now with the High Schools. In that time, they've condensed workshops for work readiness information for the students into a menu for schools to select from. Developed an OMJ Works newsletter which is sent out quarterly. Currently doing quarterly activities with administrators and guidance counselors. Career Connections Expo will be held this year. Ms. Berardinelli stated she was asked to sit on a Planning Committee to plan a training to assist youth with disabilities and how to transition from high school. The manufacturing program now has 12 employers with 16 participants and the STNA training with Stark State begins on October 10th and is open to high school students.
- *OMJ Center Geauga County.* Ms. Reda reported they're working with rehabilitation and corrects meeting with the inmates every other week providing job readiness skills. OMJ is involved with the Citizen Circle which is a group of providers that meet once a month to talk to anyone that has something criminal in their past that is blocking them from moving forward. Job Fair for local schools is in planning stage with a decision of where to hold. Working with teachers and will have a tour next week with 25 educators visiting three Geauga County manufacturing sites. Involved with the state of the schools. The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation has come out with a Tech Cred reaching out to business so business can upscale their employees. It is a \$2,000.00 per credential and a max of \$30,000.00 funding per company.

- *OMJ Center Ashtabula County.* Ms. Grubke-Bernard reported the OMJ Center youth program has a youth training center in the community. Many other organizations are now finding the OMJ services. Planning a Job/Career Fair for 2020. Area 19 has a new workforce specialist available at the OMJ Ashtabula Center, will begin employer seminars again, and will be creating a quarterly newsletter for businesses. Ashtabula Economic Development has landed a large new company locating to Ashtabula County.

Public Comment Period

None.

Mr. Dvorak moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kozlowski seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Meeting concluded at 3:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.